



TIDINGS

September 2025

A Word from your Pastor

Happy September, Beloved! It is my hope that your summer was refreshing and joyous for you! My *Tidings* article will be a lengthy one but I hope to bring a description of landscape that is affecting all churches as well as the hope and opportunity set before us.

The commentator N.S. Lyons initiated his Substack blog with the comment:

We are living through an era of epochal change. At few times in history have so many currents of civilizational transformation coalesced and crashed into us at once, and at such speed. To say that we are being unmoored by massive technological, economic, environmental, geopolitical, and socio-cultural shifts would be to insufficiently limit what is occurring. Vast new ideational, epistemological, and arguably even theological frameworks for how to understand and interact with reality have emerged and are now spreading across the world...But in our bones many of us can feel the rumbling of the earthquake and intuit the terrible truth: we are experiencing a tectonic upheaval, a rending, an uprooting, cataclysmic shift.

In my two plus decades of ministry, I have to say that N.S. has some point. Everything is dynamically changing even down to the Church. We, like Pepperidge Farm, remember a time when institutions were solid and stable, particularly the Church. Pews were filled. Sunday School Classes bursting at the seams. The Institution was solid, growing, and stable. Generally, the initial and natural response is to react, to lessen the shifting sands under our feet, to bolster, prop up, and double-down on those formative areas that worked in the past in the hope that if we just work a little harder, we can get ourselves out of the disruption, we can refill the seats, recapture the successes of the past. We are learning that the doubling down investments of energy are not always yielding to those expected outcomes. For some, there is frustration, exhaustion, and a lot of head scratching. That is natural as well. The world is shifting dramatically, and it feels that everything is in upheaval. I believe it is important to identify the landscape and give witness to the undercurrent that affects all of us, even Churches. However, there is hope and I appreciate the words from Roxburgh and Searle who encourage us to find our rock in the shifting sands. In their book *Forming Communities of Hope in the Great Unraveling*, they encourage us:

This is God's world. God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Agent of the creation. It is God's acting that brought creation into being and God's acting that sustains all creation. This basic conviction is the decisive factor in everything. It means we begin from the conviction that God is not absent, like some deistic clockmaker who got the whole thing going and then stands aside in silence. Creation's hope is rooted in this conviction that God has acting in creation, not just back then at the beginning but throughout all time and history and most clearly in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ...Our starting point, therefore, in understanding and assessing this unraveling is that God is acting in the disruptions confronting us. Our primary work, therefore, involves both worship and discernment.

There is hope in the continued and unwavering presence of God in these very disconcerting times. God is here, today; active and sustaining; encouraging and leading us onward in these seasons of disruption. So, we once again lean into the One who fashions us and sustains us by God's wondrous love in Christ. I invite us to recapture that immutable reality: God's continued presence and work to and through each of us. I close this rather long article with the reassuring words of the Psalmist:

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. -Psalm 18:2*

All my love,

Rev. Michael Hafele, Pastor

Prayer Concerns

Recent: Jan Vinokour, friend of Mary and John Hull, recovering from a serious fall; Bob Kreiger, healing prayers; Kathy Liz, friend of the Jornitz family; Dick Anderson, healing prayers; Linda Rogers, lymphoma; Karen Derryberry, breast cancer; Sarah Waite, healing prayers (niece of Mary & John Hull); Carolyn Manker Smith, breast cancer (Hanne & Bill Manker's daughter); Mariko Pichardo, healing prayers; Lenny Rempe, (longtime member of WPC); Susan Sullivan, friend of John and Mary Hull; Leslie Johnson, cancer (Stephanie Miller's mother); Pat Bebon; Libby Hirsch, cancer (Tom Rogers' cousin)
Long Term: Ralph Neubauer; Chelsey Carter Collins, Hamptons Center for Rehab; Kimberly Rogers Murawski; Dana Barrett, friend of Nancy Miller

Church Family News

Deaths

July 6, 2025

Robert Larson



Reunion Sunday, Sept. 7th

Join us as we reunite for our 10am service.

Bagels and baked goods will be served during coffee hour.

Calling All Bakers!

Anyone who enjoys baking is encouraged to bake for the coffee hour. Beginning in September, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the usher and flower chart.

Men's Fellowship Group

Thursday, September 4th at 10am in the conference room.

All are welcome. Goodies are always served.

P.W. Sept. "Salad Bar" Luncheon

Wednesday, September 10th at noon.

See page 5 for details

Local Food Pantry

According to the most recent US Census; close to 10 million children Nationally are living in poverty. LI food banks are desperately low. Please donate non perishable food items, necessary male & female personal products and children's snacks. Thank you for supporting our community."

Scrap Metal Drive!

Saturday, September 27th from 9am-2pm

There will be a GIANT Gershow Recycling container in our church parking lot. We will be accepting any and all metals including house hold appliances, bicycles, metal patio sets, pots and pans, grills, washers and dryers... you name it we're collecting! Bring it down or contact the church if you have large items that you cannot get here for the Scrap Metal Drive. All proceeds will be donated to the church operating budget! (see page 3 for full article)

Family Night at Rogers Beach

Bring your own picnic supper and join us at Rogers Beach on Sunday, September 14th at 5pm.

All are invited, so bring your friends and family too! ***Parking will be permitted for this event.***

September Ushers

Sept 7 Tom & Jane Otis

Sept 14 Tom & Jane Otis

Sept 21 Korey & Donna Williams

Sept 28 Betsy Doyle and
Karen Peterson

Sign up to usher on Sunday mornings! Inquire through the church office or speak with a Deacon!



Fundraising: Scrap Metal Collection



Saving the Planet
One Piece of Metal
at a Time



Scrapping Crew

Cheryl Van Saun
Tom Rogers
Ralph Hubbard
Frank Jessup

Not pictured

Steve Pesce
Phil Van Saun
Janet Hann



Save your scrap metal! This year's scrap metal drive has been scheduled for Saturday, September 27th. We are accepting all types of metal: steel, copper, aluminum, old appliances, cars, etc. Bring all items to the church parking lot from 9AM to 2PM. If you have large items that have to be picked up, contact Tom Rogers or the church office. We have received over \$9,000 towards the church budget from scrap metal this year! Tom is always looking for some helpers...come for an hour or come for the day...all help will be greatly appreciated!

CROP Walk

Fall gets us thinking of leaves turning and crisp days walking under blue skies, and that means that CROP Walk time is coming again. This is our chance to do something concrete to help feed those who haven't had our fortune in life. Once again we will be walking on Sunday, October 19 after church and coffee time. You can help by walking a few miles and getting sponsors to support you, or by being a sponsor and donating for this worthy cause.

You have probably heard that nationwide many aid workers have lost their jobs and that government support for hunger projects has been severely cut. This has hit Church World Services hard, and it makes it all the more important for us to do our part.

As usual we offer three options, from walking one mile, two miles, or six miles as you wish, strolling along, chatting with friends, breathing the clean air, and raising money that will directly help people worldwide including right here in our community.

We need walkers, especially. Consider now signing up in October to be part of the most hands-on (ok, feet-on) charity project we do all year. See you there soon!



Presbyterian Women

Hope that you all enjoyed your summer. Cooler days are coming. We are going to have a Warm Up For Winter Sweater Sale on Saturday, October 18th. As you are bringing out your winter clothes, look to see what you no longer want or fit into. We are still gathering gently used sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets and coats. Gently used means good condition, no holes and no stains. We might also sell some hats and scarves. Contributions are still welcomed. Drop them off at the church office.

We will have our first meeting since July on Wednesday September 10th at 12 noon in the conference room.

We decided to do a "**Salad Bar**", where everyone brings something to share to create their own salad (examples: tomatoes, olives, carrots, hard cooked eggs, croutons, etc.) ***Please let Gini Wagner know if you plan to attend and what you are bringing for the salad.***

We will be discussing our upcoming "**Warm up for winter**" sale on **October 18 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**. We are still collecting jackets and sweaters in good condition for all ages, you can bring them to the church office.

Of course the Christmas Fair will also be here very soon. If you are interested in helping with these events, please let us know. If you have any thoughts or ideas you would like us to discuss, please let us know and Gini Wagner will send out a copy of the minutes after the meeting.

2025 Fundraising Committee Events



Mark your calendar for some fun fellowship events!
You won't want to miss this fall and winter line up!
Questions, contact the church office or Fundraising Committee

Friday, September 26	Pampered Chef
Saturday, September 27	9AM-2PM Scrap Metal Drive
Friday, October 17	7-9PM Paint Night with Ginger Baer "Fall Themes"
Thursday, November 20	6PM Harvest Dinner
December	Christmas Cocktail Party—Date: TBD

The Three F's

The fundraising committee had decided on a new name to reflect who we really are, who we serve and what we do. But first a little justification.

The PNC survey revealed a few items that this committee has been able to turn into events. For example, we like to eat together. We recognize that we no longer have a family life session committee overseeing events like the picnic or pot luck suppers, all events that the survey showed were popular with our congregation. So, we added the ham dinner. We were fortunate that Ellen Campbell volunteered to lead the way with the annual picnic this year but what happens next year? John and Meryle King host our Turkey feast every year without the benefit of a session committee and have done very well without it but maybe it might be easier with it if they choose.

Adding more fellowship is our goal as well as supporting those who are willing to host events. Hosts can plug in as needed for help. Ideas for new events are welcome.

We want to keep the fun in fundraising. If we can spend time together, have some fun and raise money to support the church we have accomplished our goal.

So, our new name : ***The Three F's***
Fellowship, Fun and Fundraising.

Summertime Social

In what turned out to be a perfect weather evening, warm temperature with a nice breeze, no bugs and low humidity, 60 guests enjoyed each other's company, with very good food and drink under a tent on the church grounds. We were once again well served by Jen Cooke and her two daughters who also served us at last year's Christmas cocktail party.

The addition of the raw bar was a big hit. Clams dug out of east Shinnecock Bay earlier that morning and donated by John Gillin were opened by Edwin Chiofalo who also provided the oysters and shrimp. The use of the boat they were served on (which is so cool) was provided by Eddie's good friend Ralph Viggiano of The Long Island Shucking Truck. Both Eddie and Ralph gave us a discount for our fundraiser.

Every year there are donors to this event. This year was no exception. The tent, mosquito spray, all the wine and alcohol were donated as was the beer by committee members. All the ice was donated by John Gillin.

The flowers came from a member of the committee's garden. The corn was donated by Sandy from Schmidt's Farm Stand in WH. The two raffle baskets were donated, The Pampered Chef from Jenny Gillin and the Basket of Cheer from Nancy Vigorito. There were a number of tickets purchased and given away, some were just a donation. The winnings from the 50/50 was donated back by Jane Otis which was really generous. I'd say we are blessed! We usually have a number of sponsors but this year we had only one from Jay Evans Landscaping who is generous to us every year. Thank you Jay!

The set up and clean up was a major project of moving tables and chairs and we appreciate the help of folks beyond the committee that pitch in. "Many hands make light work"! We are always grateful for the help.

So far, the feed back the committee has gotten is that folks really liked that the event was hosted at the church, the food was excellent and they enjoyed the addition of the raw bar. It looks like after our expenses we netted \$3885 toward our annual fundraising goal.

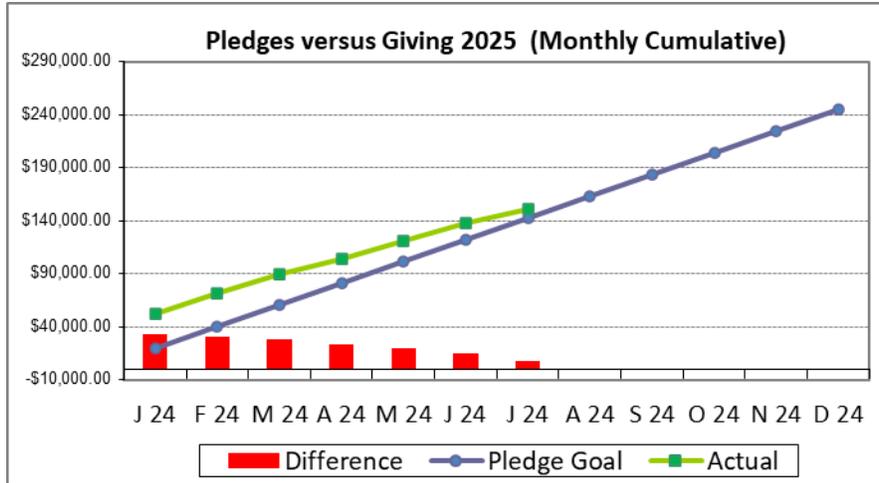
\$500	Sponsor
\$325	Basket Raffle
\$195	50/50
\$4215	Ticket Sales
\$5235	Total Gross Income
\$1350	Expenses



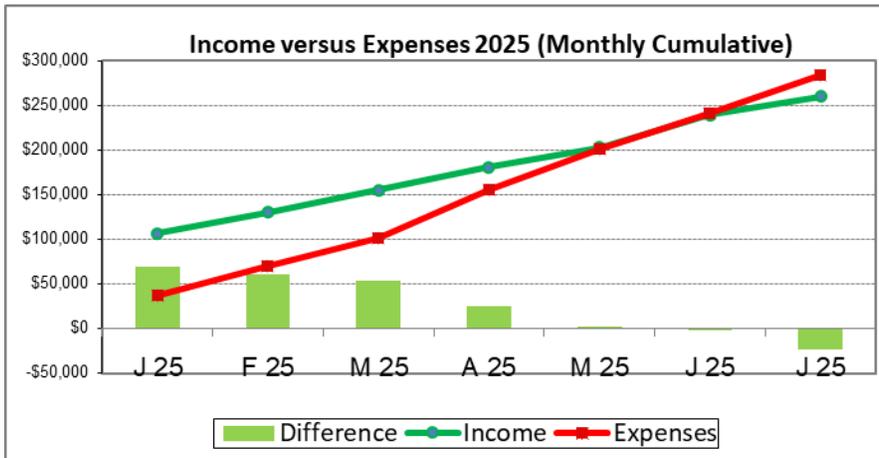
JULY 2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

A bit over the half year mark 2025, we ended on concerning not in respect of the financial health of our church.

The year-to-date pledge goal is \$142,912 and the year-to-date actual giving is \$151,248, which means we have a positive difference between goal and actual of \$8,336, but this is mainly due to an overage in January's giving. From there on, the last 6 months we were well below the giving pledges and \$8,500 below previous year. Our monthly givings versus pledge continuous be an average \$4,000 below the pledges made and anybody who pledged please review your pledge versus givings balance. If you need the status of your givings, please do not hesitate to contact Erika. Thank you !



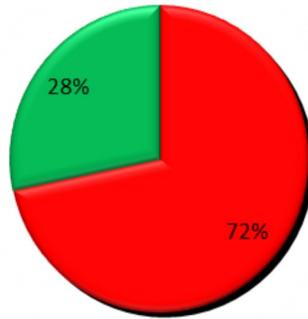
The church's seven months actual income year-to-date total is now \$259,783 and expenses \$282,982, which means the year-to-date difference between income and expense is a negative (\$23,200). Our expenses are close to \$30,000 higher than last year and income \$20,000 higher than last year.



Our anticipated givings are just 5% above the seven month plan, but we need to understand that this includes pledge members which paid their giving in full at the beginning of the year. Therefore, the giving level will decline throughout the year, if any pledge member does not watch the actual giving and falls behind the pledge. Since the givings are our majority income for our church, this will have an impact on the church's financial health.

Our budgeted mission giving to the Presbytery for 2025 is a total of \$9,371. In the first seven months our Per Capita income was \$3,962, which means our church right now would need to compensate \$5,409 for members who have not yet contributed their Per Capita mission payment. We have only 28% our members support their Per Capita mission. We would like to ask you for your Per Capita giving of \$47.09, as it will greatly help our church to finance other activities. We thank you in advance !

(continued on page 7)



If you want to contribute in different ways, we also have a list of consumables, equipment and supplies list on the message board. Any donation of either printer paper, software services or garden service etc. will help our financial and operating expenses.

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

(continued from page 6)

Children's Ministry

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. By the time you read this, school will have started; I hope everyone has a great school year! We were busy getting our calendar ready for the new year, existing Sunday School registrants check your email or check the Youth bulletin board out in the Parish Hall for an updated registration & schedule.

A few highlights to mark your calendar now:

Sunday School Registration / email / 1st day – September 7th

Annual Sunday School Photo September 7th

Advent Festival Saturday, November 22nd (time TBD)

Christmas Pageant December 14th (rehearsals check schedule)

Lenten Festival February 8th

Youth Sunday May 10th (rehearsals check schedule)

Confirmation May 24th

Church Picnic June 14th

We are seeking individuals who like to join our confirmation class starting in 2026. Candidates should be in 8th grade or above. Currently we have 4 people who are interested. We will hold an informational meeting to tell the confirmands what is expected, and we'll proceed from there! If you're interested and haven't contacted me, please email: whpresbyterianyg@gmail.com

Once again, the youth will be hosting the "rest" area in our parking lot on September 27th. It's an all-day affair (7am-3:30pm) where we set out provided refreshments (from the sponsor) to serve bicyclists riding their way from NYC to Montauk. In addition to providing our services, the sponsor donates to the Youth Group that helps fund our activities for the year!

Youth Group is open to youth in grades 7th – 12th we will have our first meeting & bagels on September 7th after Sunday School in Bailey Hall. I'd like to hear from the youth as to what type of things they'd like to do: mission projects (in addition to what we do), mission trip(similar to REACH...check out <https://passportcamps.org>) and of course fun activities!!!

The scholarship recipients this year were: Carson Campbell, Kayla Coffey, Abigail Ketner, Kaitelynn Mazurkiewicz and Ryan Zollweg. To all our higher education adults: wherever you go and whatever you do we want you to know that your church family is always here for you! Kindly email us your address so the youth group can keep in touch or send a goodie package! May your year be blessed with peace and joy as you continue to grow in wisdom as well as knowledge and faith.

God's Peace,
Kathy

WISHING A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO....

1	Ralph Neubauer	19	Kimet & Mike Hipp
1	Karen & Ralph Neubauer	21	Karen & Chris Andrews
2	Rev. Ann Van Cleef	22	Stuart Wood
3	Tracy Martin	22	Mike Hipp
4	Donna Goebel Williams	24	Nancy & Harry Miller
4	Fred Bauer	24	Jola & Christian Carter
5	Jessica Howard	25	Seth Stevens
5	Kathy Johnson	26	Holly Hubbard
5	Jane Otis	27	John Sprague
8	David Aiello	28	Dante Thomas Aiello
8	Margery Gosnell-Qua	28	Traci Duke
9	Blake Busking	28	Lorenzo Vigorito
11	Grant Babis		
11	Jennifer & Andrew Schultze		
12	Margery & Bruce Qua		
13	Vern Hackworth		
13	Stephanie & Kyle Miller		
13	Kimberly & Tommy Otis		
15	Nancy & Wes Winters		
15	Hanne & Bill Manker		
15	Micah Bennett		
15	Susan Lipp		
16	Hannah Wagner		
16	Cindy & Robert Schneider		
16	Caroline Aslin Imber		
16	Mimi & Stu Wood		
16	John Hull		
17	Bonnie & Eric Wootten		
17	Lily & George Burns		
18	Keaton Campbell		
18	Gary Martin		
18	Mark Jones		



September 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Labor Day Office Closed No Online Bible Study	2 7pm Deacons	3	4 9:30am 3 F's Meeting 10am Men's Group	5	6
7 Reunion Sunday 10am Worship S.S. Begins 9:15am Choir rehearsal	8 7pm Online Bible Study	9 5:15pm M&W 6pm Session	10 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff 12pm PW "Salad Bar" meeting	11 	12	13
14 10am Worship 5pm Family Night @ Rogers Beach	15 7pm Online Bible Study	16 7pm Trustees	17	18	19	20
21 10am Worship 4pm Installation Service for Rev. Michael Hafele	22 7pm Online Bible Study	23	24	25	26	27 7am-4pm YG Bike Rally USA 9am-2pm Scrap Metal Drive
28 10am Worship	29 7pm Online Bible Study	30				

*WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
90 MEETING HOUSE ROAD
WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NY 11978*