

# The Good News Letter

April 2012



**The Presbyterian Church, Pleasantville, New York**

*"To know Jesus Christ, to make Him known, and to serve others in His love."*

## CHALLENGE to Change

On March 21st we held our first Challenge to Change Gathering. Nine people came together to talk about how we can live the life outlined in Micah 6:8, "what does the lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God." We also talked about passion, in the words of Dr. Seuss, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better, it's not." If you missed it, be sure to join us next time on **April 18th** from 5:30-7pm.

We are going to begin conversations about food justice and how the food we eat can lead us closer to a life of "doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly."

## RUMMAGE SALE



Friday, **April 27** - 9am-5pm

Saturday, **April 28** - 9am-1pm

### Drop off

April 22, 1-5pm

April 23 & 24, 9am-5pm & 7-9pm

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

### **Maunder Thursday Service**

April 5th

We will have our own worship service which commemorates the Last Supper at 7:30pm.

### **Ecumenical Good Friday Service**

April 6th

*"The Three Hours"* a moving time of preparation for Easter and reflection on the hours Jesus spent on the cross. Come for part or all as we sing, pray, read scripture and have times of silence.

Presbyterian Church - noon to 3 pm

### **Easter Sunday**

April 8th

*The Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ*

6:30am - Sunrise Service and breakfast—United Methodist Church

10 am - Worship, bring friends and family

11:15 am - Easter crafts followed by the Easter Eggstravaganza

*Alleluia!*



## *Save the Date*

### **For the McKinney/McConnell 90th Birthday Party**

Sunday, May 6th

Can you believe that Tom McConnell and Lew McKinney will be turning 90 years old? To celebrate we will have a pot luck lunch after worship on May 6th.

Please get this on your calendar and plan what great food you'll bring to help celebrate. For more information talk with Kim Lewis.

Spread the news!



## Pastor Debbie

**HAPPY EASTER!**

*AND THE GLORY*

*by Ann Weems*

The silence breaks into morning.  
That One Star lights the world.  
The lily springs to life and  
not even Solomon. . .

Let it begin with singing  
and never end!  
Oh, angels, quit your lamenting!  
Oh, pilgrims,  
upon your knees in tearful prayer,  
rise up  
and take your hearts  
and run!

We who were no people  
are named anew  
God's people,  
for he who was no more  
is forevermore.

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Debbie*



## Save the Dates

<i>Palm Sunday</i>	April 1
<i>Sermon Reflection</i>	April 1
<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	April 1
<i>Men's Breakfast</i>	April 7
<i>Easter</i>	April 8
<i>Challenge to Change</i>	April 18
<i>Rummage Set Up</i>	April 20
<i>Leadership Retreat</i>	April 21
<i>Midnight Run</i>	April 21
<i>Rummage Sale</i>	April 27
<i>Rummage Sale</i>	April 28
<i>Confirmation Retreat</i>	May 4-5
<i>Malawi Fundraiser</i>	May 5
<i>The 90th Birthday Party</i>	May 6
<i>ASP Pancake Breakfast</i>	May 19

## Scholarship Dollars Available

Planning for college tuition bills? Your church scholarship may be able to offer a bit of help, and every little bit does help! It is easy to apply. To receive an application just contact Mickie Eschweiler.

## Do You Have Medical Supplies You'd Like to Donate?

If you have left over medical supplies that you can get rid of, we've found a great organization that collects them and distributes them to people in need. It is located in Yonkers, but also has a local drop-off. For more information, go to [afyafoundation.org](http://afyafoundation.org) or talk with Barb Loizeaux.



# Sunday School & Christian Ed News

## Easter Eggstravaganza!

April 8th

Now that the weather is finally beginning to shift into spring, it's time to think about Easter! Remember to fill a dozen or more plastic eggs with goodies and bring them to the church on Easter Sunday, along with your basket, for our Easter Eggstravaganza! We want to make sure everyone's baskets will be filled as we celebrate our risen Lord!



## Make Crafts on Easter

While our youth groups hides eggs for the Easter Egg hunt, everyone else is invited to get crafty with another wonderful Nemec family craft shindig in the Fellowship Hall.

## New Sunday School Teachers

We are wrapping up another year of Sunday School, but we do have two more units and we need YOU! Teaching Sunday School is designed to be easy, rewarding and fun! You will receive a package from Bryan with everything you need: curriculum, games, crafts, snacks. All you need to do is read through the curriculum before Sunday and then share it with the kids!

We'd love to have you teach Sunday School, and we know you can do it, so call Bryan Bardin or Kathy Brown and we'll answer your questions, allay your fears, and prep you for a very rewarding experience.



## Confirmation Class Update

We are quickly approaching the halfway point of our Confirmation Class. We've been so impressed with the energy and engagement from the students, covenant partners, and of course, Bryan and Debbie. Be sure to ask our 8th and 9th graders about their journey during confirmation class.

Confirmation is not a project we can do alone, it takes the entire community of believers. Which means YOU!

## Bible Study Opportunities

### Tuesday Titans!

Tuesday Evenings  
8:15-9:15pm in the Campbell Room  
Current Study: Book of Matthew in the Bible. Contact Mark Zarick for more info

### Women's Bible Fellowship

Tuesday Mornings  
9:30-11pm in the Campbell Room  
Current Study: Becoming a Woman of Simplicity, by Cynthia Heald. Contact Cathy Fellows for more info

### Evening Women's Bible Fellowship

1st & 3rd Wednesday Evenings  
Each Month  
7:30-9pm in the Campbell Room  
Current Study: Using a study guide, Jesus Christ - Teacher, Servant and Savior by John Stott. Contact Nancy Flynn for more info.

Everyone welcome!



## Ecumenical Vacation Bible School August 13-17

*At our church!*

Come for a week of incredible fun, learning and music. Sign up will be in May, so don't miss it.

**Every kid wishes they could fly...** So imagine transforming your church into the boundless blue sky! At Sky VBS, kids discover that by trusting God, everything is possible.

**Adult and youth volunteers needed.**

For more information, talk with Anel Fourie

# Upcoming Events

## Parenting Teens Program Continues

Tuesday, May 15th  
7pm Campbell Room

Come talk with other parents about the joys and challenges of parenting a teenager. This group meets monthly and is facilitated by Pastor Debbie.

All are welcome and bring a friend.



## Midnight Run

April 21st

An outreach ministry to people in NYC who are currently homeless. This is a great mission opportunity for adults and high school youth.

**Next run is June 16th.**

For more info, talk with  
Dave Smutzler

## Men's Breakfast

April 7<sup>th</sup>



We serve delicious food at  
7:30am with  
program following.  
Join us!

## Pleasantville Day Outreach

May 19<sup>th</sup>

Come spread the word in the community about our church. Each year we set up a table at Pleasantville Day, we make crafts and play some games and tell passersby more about us.

If you'd like to help set up or spend some time at the table, please contact Barb Loizeaux.

## Who is Jesus? A Sermon Reflection

Sunday, April 1st

Join Pastor Debbie in the Campbell Room after Coffee Hour to reflect on the sermon series "Who is Jesus?". We will talk about the various ways that the recent sermons presented Jesus and we'll also have a chance to reflect and ask questions.



## Pancakes, Pancakes, Pancakes

Fundraiser for the  
Appalachia Service Project

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars and  
save your appetite.

## Holmes Presbyterian Camp & Conference Ctr.

Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center is a welcoming Christian Community responding to God's call where lives change and faith grows in a natural setting.

Please check out their website at [www.HolmesCamp.org](http://www.HolmesCamp.org)



## Rummage Sale Opportunities

Rummage is an opportunity to participate in a mission project right here in our own community. Our sale provides people with needed, usable items at an affordable price. Sometimes it even fills the spirit as people find "treasures" that remind them of their childhood or of a loved family member. This is a rewarding week of fellowship and fun.

Join us for pre-sale set-up on Friday evening, April 20, or anytime during the week of April 22. Whether it's sorting, pricing, arranging, selling, cleaning up, or setting out food for the workers there is something for everyone. Workers of all ages are welcome and babysitting is provided for the little ones. New faces are always welcome, so come and bring a friend.

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## Want to Learn to Speak Spanish?

If you've thought about learning or improving your Spanish, we have an opportunity for you. We have several volunteers from our congregation who would love to teach you Spanish.

To find out more about specific times, contact Victor Corona.

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## News from Session

Some highlights from the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Session...

- We welcomed Margaret Smith who will be joining the church.
- Pastor Debbie reported that the Confirmation Class is going well and now has 13 participants.
- She also reported that the April 21st leadership retreat will be led by Sarah Henkel who is the Presbytery's Cross-Cultural Network Coordinator.
- Session voted to approve a fundraiser for the summer Challenge to Change program. Details to follow.
- The Adult Ed forum, "Christianity 101" has met twice and will meet 2 more times.
- Steve Berg reported that the Stewardship Committee is working on creating "e-giving" capabilities for the church.
- Session voted to approve a Tupperware fundraiser for Great Beginnings Pre-School and Session requested that it be made available to church members too.

## God-Prayer-Success

*By Steve Berg*

So now that we all have EZ Pass, there is another device we cannot live without, a GPS. Printed maps are on the endangered species list. Even googlemaps is becoming obsolete. With a little box that tells us when and where to turn no matter what destination we enter, who needs anything else? If you are like me you frequently ignore its instructions because you think you know better, but it sure is comforting to know that no matter how far off track you get, the GPS can always get you back.

If only there was something like that for our everyday lives. How much less stressful would it be if we had something to guide us through life's many tribulations? To tell us how to act, how to live our lives?

Wait a minute! We have the Bible, if you still prefer the printed format, and prayer if you don't; although the answer may not be immediately forthcoming. How lucky we are to have access to a system that has been around, at least in part, since.... well...the time of Moses anyway.

Just like the GPS, no matter how far we stray from our intended path, God is always there to guide us back.

*Thou wilt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*  
Psalm 73:24

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## Walks, Art and Registration at Great Beginnings Pre-School

We were thankful for the warm winter weather which allowed us to enjoy our playgrounds for more months than usual. We are now ready to resume our walking trips as we venture out to explore our community as guests of several local merchants.

Our March artwork was displayed in the lobby showcases of the Mt. Pleasant Library. In the classroom the Songbirds marveled at the wonderful ocean creatures that God made and the Hummingbirds learned nursery rhymes.

We have begun registering for the next school year. Although classes are filling up quickly, there are still a few spaces available. This is a comfortable way to introduce a family with a preschooler to our church.

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## PresbyBuild

PresbyBuild is a mission project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh that is supported by 12 congregations of the Presbytery of Hudson River.

These congregations provide on-site volunteers, mission grants, fundraising activities, administrative assistance, meeting spaces, prayers, and other volunteer services. The goal is to provide decent, affordable housing, restore a sense of community with strong neighborhoods and dignity through home ownership.

*(from the website of the Hudson River Presbytery).*

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Miriam Longobardi with her daughters

## **Meet Our New Member - Miriam Longobardi**

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Poughkeepsie, NY. I was born and raised Methodist and my mother, sister and I were quite active in our church.

### **Prior church activities?**

My children have participated in various Christmas pageants both here and our former church and they were also in the choir there. I was on the Sunday school rotation, frequently hosted coffee hour (I love to bake and cook!), and I served on the PPRC (Pastor/Parish Relations Committee). I look forward to getting more involved here at the Presbyterian Church.

### **What is your vocation?**

I was a business major in college and was a sales analyst in the jewelry industry for five years before going back for my Master's Degree in Elementary Education. I have been teaching for 18 years (10 years in kindergarten and 8 in first grade). I teach in the Chappaqua Central School District.

### **What are your favorite hobbies?**

I love running and have completed four marathons and one half marathon. I also did Warrior Dash last summer which incorporates many crazy obstacles (leaping over fire hurdles, plank walks, rappeling up and down walls etc) during a very muddy run. I love writing and I am a freelance writer. I contribute frequently to Inside Chappaqua magazine. I also write a Modern Love relationships column for Examiner.com. I'm working on a memoir that I'm hoping to have published. I love traveling to new places around the world both with and without my girls. This summer I'm going to Italy and Croatia for three weeks.

### **Why did you choose to join this church?**

I was happy at my former church but needed a place with a more active youth program. The philosophies of both churches were similar enough for me that it was a very smooth transition and everyone here has been wonderful over the years. Julia being in confirmation class prompted me to make my membership transfer "official".

### **What is one thing people would be surprised to know about you?**

Most people probably don't know that I am a breast cancer survivor. Ten years ago I was diagnosed with stage 2 invasive breast cancer and underwent many surgeries and nine months of intense chemotherapy. I now volunteer for the American Cancer Society and counsel women (particularly those with young children as mine were at the time) in various stages of treatment and recovery.

### **What areas of our church life interest you?**

I'm really open to pitching in wherever I can as time allows. I love writing and reading, cooking and baking, and I also enjoy gardening and painting (walls, not canvases...), so anywhere those talents can fit.

## **Many Travel to Appalachia This Summer**

We are excited to report that 50 adult and youth volunteers are getting ready for this summer's Appalachia Service Project (ASP) mission trip to West Virginia - our largest group ever!

As part of our preparation, we will be volunteering two Saturdays with the local non-profit A-Home, repairing one or two of their group homes in Westchester County. In years past, our days with A-Home have given the volunteers a chance to build their home repair skills, work in teams, and gain a deeper understanding of what it means to serve others who are in need. A-Home appreciates the hard work and measurable improvements that our volunteers give them and welcomes us back each year for more "skill-building"!

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on April 1st, and is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. The Presbyterian church's collection supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People.

# Who is Doing What?

Here's a list of the 2012 committees of the Session and key positions in the congregation. Feel free to contact them if you have any questions or would like to be on one of the committees. Those listed are Chairs (whether Elders or not) and any Elders who serving on that particular committee. *This isn't a list of all committee members.*

## Committees of Session

<b>Adult Ed</b>	Nancy Flynn, Chair
<b>Christian Ed</b>	Kathy Brown, Chair
<b>Endowment</b>	Steve Berg, Gordon Quimby, Gary Dieckman, Mark Zarick
<b>Evangelism &amp; Membership</b>	Barbara Loizeaux, Chair
<b>Fellowship</b>	
<b>Finance</b>	David Fourie, Chair Cathy Fellows, Steve Berg, Mark Zarick
<b>Mission</b>	Kim Kleman Lewis, Chair Victor Corona
<b>Nominating</b>	Kim Kleman Lewis, Chair
<b>Personnel</b>	Cathy Fellows, Chair Mark Zarick
<b>Property</b>	Steve Miller, Chair Steve Berg, Pono Wong
<b>Scholarship</b>	Mickie Eschweiler, Chair
<b>Stewardship</b>	Steve Berg & Christine Alvis, Co-Chairs Barb Loizeaux
<b>Worship</b>	Lisa Miller, Chair

## Board of Elders

### Service through January 2013

Kathy Brown  
Kim Kleman Lewis  
Barbara Loizeaux  
Mark Zarick

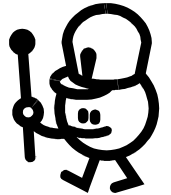
### Service through January 2014

Steve Berg  
Lisa Miller

### Service through January 2015

Christine Alvis  
Victor Corona  
Cathy Fellows  
Pono Wong

## NEW Church Officers & Leaders



## Other Positions in the Church

Board of Deacons Moderator	Pastor Debbie Bronkema
Ex Officio	
Business Manager	Lisa Miller
Clerk of Session	Mark Zarick
Commissioner to Presbytery	Rotating Elders
Alternate Commissioner to Presbytery	Doris Kersten
Great Beginnings Nursery School Director	Ruth Fischer
Head Usher	Gary Dieckman
Parish Nurse	Paula Graham
Presbyterian Women Moderator	Michelle Gonzalez
Memorial Fund	Jo Anna Tivnan
Roll Clerk	Linda Berg
Treasurer	Anel Fourie
Youth Council Chair	JoAnne Willard

## Board of Deacons

### Service through June 2013

Peter Krautle  
Leslie Quimby  
Dave Smutzler  
Jane Wong

### Service through January 2014

Amy Jenal

### Youth Deacons

Ronnie Gonzalez  
Shane Willard

# FUNDRAISER FOR HOPE

Support College Scholarships  
**HOME OF HOPE ORPHANAGE**  
**MALAWI, AFRICA**

**Saturday, May 5**  
6 to 9 pm



*Sponsored by Teens for Hope*

**GOOD FOOD &  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**Hillside Church**  
448 Bedford Rd  
Armonk, NY

***Education = Opportunity***

Please reserve tickets in advance by calling Anna Loizeaux at (914) 261-4332 or by emailing [anna.loizeaux@gmail.com](mailto:anna.loizeaux@gmail.com)  
Suggested minimum donation: \$25 adult, \$10 children 12 to 5, children 4 and under are free *Childcare provided*

# The Presbyterian Church

400 Bedford Road  
Pleasantville, New York 10570

914-769-0458  
Info@PvillePresby.org  
www.PvillePresby.org

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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White Plains, NY

Return Service  
Requested

# RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY

**APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>**

9 AM—5 PM

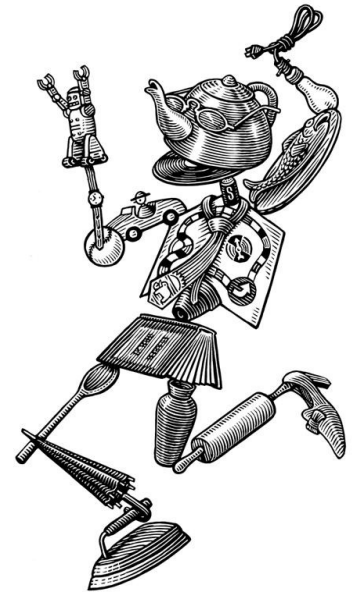
# SALE

SATURDAY

**APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>**

9 AM—1 PM

1/2 PRICE & BARGAIN DAY



## Donations Accepted

Sunday 1-5  
Monday 9-5 7-9  
Tuesday 9-5 7-9

## Helpers needed

April 20, 22-28  
Friday, Sunday – Saturday  
Helpers can shop early on  
Thursday around 3:30pm

## Sign up to help

using the bulletin insert or  
the poster in the hallway

Babysitting available

## ★ How You Can Help ★

- Collect** your stuff and bring it on Sunday - Tuesday
- Bring or make** brownies or cookies for the workers
- Set up** 7-8pm on Friday, April 20th
- Set up** after church on Sunday, April 22nd
- Sort** rummage in the evening on Monday or Tuesday
- Sort** rummage during the day Sunday - Thursday
- Work** the Sale on Friday or Saturday
- Clean up** on Saturday afternoon
- Invite** a friend (*we're always adding new workers*)
- Pray** for the leaders, workers and that we serve our customers well

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

