

March Tidings 2017

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Pastor's Musings

Like many, in my office I have a number of pictures of family and friends. Recently a person who had come to see me at the office, commented on the picture I have out of my Dad. The picture was taken shortly after Tom and I bought our house, and it shows my Dad on top of the trash that we had taken from the garage and thrown into the dumpster. I explained that my father loved dumpsters. Like his son, me, he was a tosser. He loved clearing things out, and so whenever there was a dumpster to be filled - he was there. Then after the area had been cleared, he loved to stand in the middle of the cleaned area, and just take in the clean, uncluttered space.

I have looked at that picture a few times since that day, and recently was looking at it while also thinking about Lent. Now stay with me - there is a connection between dumpsters and Lent.

Lent is a church season in which we are challenged to examine our life and to clear out all those things that hinder, or may even block, our relationship with God. It is a season focused on "removing the clutter" so that in the newly cleared space we can better focus on and develop our relationship with God, so that we can more faithfully follow in the way of Christ. The disciplines of fasting, prayer and charity, are all ones that developed as means by which we can clear out time and redirect resources in order to foster our relationship with God and our neighbor.



Like a garage, attic or closet, our lives can quickly become filled with "stuff." So periodically we need to get a dumpster, and do some cleaning. A cleaning that will enable us to more fully focus on God and how to express the divine love in our lives. A clearing of the clutter, that hopefully opens us up, body, mind and soul, to receive once again with great joy, the news of Christ's resurrection and the new life that we have been given through him.

So this Lent, I hope that like my father, you will find excitement and great joy, in filling your dumpster with all those things for which their time to go has come, in order that with your whole being you can know the power of Christ's resurrection in your life and through you, that power released in the world.



Per Member Assessment

As part of the Reformed Church in America, each congregation is required to contribute to the financial support of our General Synod, Regional Synod, and Classis. The amount is determined by dividing the budgeted assessment income needed by the number of members. The per member assessment for 2017 is \$107. If you wish to help meet this expense, you can use the Assessment Envelope in your box of offering envelopes. Thanks for your help.

Ash Wednesday Service

We will mark the start of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service on March 1 at 7:30pm. This Service will include the imposition of ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion.

The Shack

A number of years ago some of us read the book *The Shack* and joined in a discussion of the book. Well, now the book has been made into a movie. If you are interested in joining a discussion on the movie, join us on March 4 at the Regal Movie Theater at The Arches in Deer Park for the 4:20pm showing. You will need to purchase your own ticket. Following the movie we will gather for dinner and discussion at Manga Pizza and Restaurant in North Babylon.

New Vice-President

The Consistory has elected Elder Cheryl Lento to serve as our Vice-President for the year 2017. When Pastor is unavailable, she is the person to speak with.

Book and Bagels

On Sunday, April 23 at 11:00am, over coffee/tea and bagels, Pastor will lead a discussion on Mitch Albom's latest book, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*. One reviewer described the book as "a Forrest Gump-like epic about one man's journey to discover what truly matters and the power of talent to change our lives."

Prayer Service

On Monday, March 27 at 7:30 we will hold a prayer service during which prayers will be offered for those on the prayer list and other concerns shared at the service.

Prayer List

So that we may have a current prayer list, please be sure to make updates to the listings that you have made. A reminder that when a request is made, it remains on the list for three months and is then removed. If you wish to have it stay on, a new request must be made at that time. Prayer requests and updates can be made by using the form on the table in the Narthex, or by sending an email to the church.



St. Paul's Reformed Church
Highlights of February Consistory Meeting

Pastor's Report:

Pastor will be on vacation March 20-March 26. Bible Study-2/22 630PM, March 4-Movie "Shack", April 23-Book & Bagels-Magic Strings of Frankie Presto By Mitch Albom, March 5-Spaghetti Lunch-Boy Scouts, March 17-St. Patrick's dinner hosted by Lions Club, March 18-Lucky BINGO, April 8-Inside cleanup-9-12 and thank you dinner hosted by The Jesus Witness Way of Holiness Church. Rev. Amy Nyland looking into getting us financial support to help St Paul's carry on our ministry.

Finance: (C. Galante)

No report

Worship: (C. Lavorata)

Pancake dinner-2/25-5 PM, Mar 1-730 PM Ash Wednesday Service, no Lenten services. Services all set for Holy Week, Confirmation Sunday-May 28, choir schedule has been set up and they will be wearing robes, Pastor's sermons may be recorded and uploaded to the website.

Property: (J. Altieri)

Candy machine removed from garage, but we can request to use, March 3-Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall, will need volunteers to get our garden started and potatoes added to crops.

Preschool: (B. Milligan)

Children had festivities for January and February. Parent Teacher Conferences ongoing, school needs 45 students registered by June to open to cover expenses including fee for custodian.

Family Care: (Pastor Strauch)

March 18-Lucky BINGO, if we are to have coffee hour, members need to sign up to host.

Christian Education: (C. Lento)

Sunday school in church once a month, regular attendance, children will be singing in church in March and Palm Sunday.

Mission: (D. Miller)

March and April-mission will be Lenten Coin folders.

Stewardship: (B. Walters)

No report

Nassau-Suffolk Annual Women's Communion Breakfast:

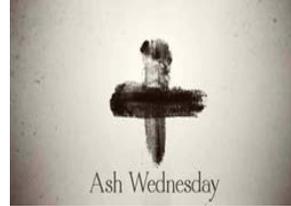
Saturday April 5, 2017 At 10AM

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Cindy Lavorata, Worship Chair



A very well attended Scout Sunday was held on February 5. Communion was served with bread and juice and grape and crackers. The worship service was followed by a brunch supplied and organized by Burt Venenadaal. The scouts were a great help with the set-up and clean-up.

The imposition of ashes and serving of the Lord's Supper will take place Ash Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30pm.



Holy Week Services:

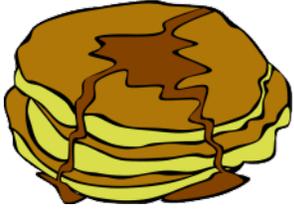
Palm Sunday	4/9/17 palms ordered
Maundy Thursday	4/13/17 7:30 PM
Good Friday, Tenebrae	4/14/17 7:30 PM
Easter Sunday	4/16/17 Dawn service 6:30am Argyle Gazebo Worship Service at 10 am

Flowers will be given to everyone at the 10am service to decorate the cross

An Easter Egg hunt is being organized to take place on Saturday, April 15 (the day before Easter) along with a bake sale. Hopefully, this will be a draw to bring people to St. Paul's for the bake sale. If anyone has experience with running an Egg Hunt, please see Cindy. We will also need help the day of the event for the egg hunt and at the bake sale table. Danielle will be posting a list for people to bake for the sale.

Confirmation Sunday is set for Sunday, May 28. Two of our students will be making their Confirmation this year. A coffee hour in their honor will follow the Worship Service.

The Choir will rehearse with Joe after the service and also the morning that they will sing an Anthem which will be the third Sunday. The Choir will sing one anthem a month, Joe will play once a month and Kerri will play contemporary music two Sundays a month.



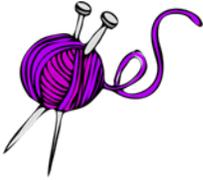
The flapjack fundraiser held in February raised over \$1,400. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who attended, sold tickets, helped the day of the event selling tickets, greeting and seating guests, serving and busing tables. We cannot have a successful event without all of you and this was a success!

USHERS

03/01 Ash Wed. Edie & Sophia
03/05 Scott & Danielle
03/12 Roseann & Cindy
03/19 Mary & Pam
03/26 Matthew & Ryan

COMMUNION SERVERS

Pam & Cheryl
Cindy & JeanAnn



Do you like to knit or crochet or interested in learning? We are hoping to start a knitters group joining with members of the LGBTQ group from Bay Shore. We are looking into the location and time. We hope to meet twice a month, probably on a Sunday evening. See Cindy if you are interested.

