



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



International Pot Luck Lunch - October 23rd (Article on pg. 4)

Stewardship “Stew” Lunch

November 13th



Come enjoy delicious homemade stews and wonderful fellowship right after worship. We will live out our theme, “God’s Love in Action” as we share the bounty we create with one another. If you would like to contribute a stew, bread or dessert, talk with Christine Alvis.

(more info on pp. 4 & 5)



Come Celebrate Thanksgiving at Church

Thursday, November 24th, 5pm

What? A delicious Thanksgiving meal with great fellowship.

Who? For those who have family far away or just want to spend a special evening with their church family.

How? Pot luck—sign up in the foyer starting November 7th or call the church office at 769-0458.

Food? Please bring a side dish or dessert for 8-10.

Questions?

Ask Jane Wong or Pastor Debbie

RSVP by November 21st.



We Bid Bryan a Fond Farewell

At a special Session meeting on October 25th, we are sad to say that Bryan Bardin announced that December 18th will be his last Sunday with us before heading back to Florida before Christmas. We wish him all the best as he lives into God’s calling in his life. For more about this see the Youth News. (more on pg. 3)

SAVE THE DATE

Bryan Bardin’s Farewell Gathering

December 18th
after worship



Pastor Debbie on Seasons and Farewells

Dear Friends in Christ,

For everything there is a season....

This year, the colors changed in what seemed to me the most breath-taking array of colors I can remember. Maybe it was that quote I mentioned in worship last month, from Helen Keller that opened me up to the joy in the colors surrounding us.

"At times my heart cries out with longing to see things. If I can get so much pleasure from mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight. Yet, those who have eyes apparently see little. The panorama of color and action which fills the world is taken for granted." Helen Keller

Or maybe the lights and colors really were brighter than usual.

As we spend time these next few months celebrating the ministry that Bryan Bardin has done alongside us - I think we all realize that we've enjoyed a time of bright colors, joy and depth during this season in our churches life. His children's sermons have made us smile, and taught us

theology at the same time. His work with our children and youth has strengthened them for the journey of faith they are walking. And his constant willingness to step into any possible need the church might have has been a true testimony to the power of the words "and other duties as needed" at the end of the job description.

We will send him into the world with our blessings, our prayers, and our love. And also with our own sorrows - as there is nothing wrong with missing the gift we've had, even as we make room in our hearts for the gifts that God will provide going forward.

In this season - may we lift up our eyes to the Lord - who sustains us for the journey. Please mark your calendars to celebrate Bryan's ministry in Pleasantville on December 18th.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

Leaders' Dinner	Nov 4
Jazz Vespers	Nov 5
Stewardship "Stew" Lunch	Nov 13
ASP Info Meeting	Nov 14
Transitions Group	Nov 17
Stewardship Sunday	Nov 20
Advent Study	Nov 27
Jazz Vespers	Dec 3
Advent Study	Dec 4
Advent Pageant & Fair	Dec 11
Advent Study	Dec 18

Remember E-giving!

It's easy to set up. Just go to our website www.pvillepresby.org from your computer or your smart phone and click on "Contribute". Follow the directions to create or update your profile.

Don't Want to Use a Computer?

Visit the church office to obtain an authorization form with which you can write in your donation amount and frequency and bank information. Sign it and give it to Jo Anna Tivnan. To make a change to a recurring donation, just submit an updated form.

Donate a Christmas Poinsettia

Please complete and mail to the church office if you wish to donate a poinsettia for the sanctuary. Deadline for orders is December 2nd. Please reserve ___ poinsettias for me. Attached is \$18 for each plant order.

___ In Memory of _____

___ In Honor of _____

___ To the Glory of God

Name _____

Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____

Please pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas services are over.



REMINDER!

Mail your



**Appalachia
Christmas
packages by**

November 17th

Church News

Stewardship 2016

God's Love in Action

Important Dates

November 4th

Leaders' Dinner

November 13th

Congregational Stew Lunch

All are welcome!

November 20th

Stewardship Sunday

Pledge cards returned

Thanksgiving Offering

We welcome your donations to our Thanksgiving Offering. If you have giving envelopes, you will find a special one in your box for this donation. You do not need a special envelope, however; simply write "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo section of your check conventionally or electronically.

The monies collected are contributed to the Food Pantry to help out at Thanksgiving time. Thank you for opening your heart for those who will appreciate the gift of nutrition.

Peace and Global Witness Offering 2016

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Peace and Global Witness Offering last month. We raised \$340 and 25%, or \$85, will be retained for our congregation to use locally in connection with the global witness of Christ's peace. What a gift it is to those who have been hurt, in both their spirit and their community, to find a lasting peace, resolution of conflict and reconciliation. Thank you for helping to create a world of peace through your gifts.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Sharing God's Bounty, Spreading Hope

Every year our congregation generously donates food to the Children's Village, a residential school in Dobbs Ferry for at-risk boys ages 6-20. At Thanksgiving the boys go home to visit their families or foster families. Our donations help to fill 200 baskets of food so that each of the boys can take home the gift of food for Thanksgiving. Any overflow goes to the Pleasantville Interfaith Food Pantry. The need is great, and our gifts make a huge difference!

Special grocery bags are available in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Please pick up a bag and keep it in your car as a reminder to purchase some non-perishable foods for those in need. Have your children select some of their favorite foods to donate. This mission project is for all ages!

**Please fill your bag and return to church by
November 13th**



International Pot Luck Lunch...

Great Food & Fellowship

There was food from over 25 different countries and U.S. regions, and the 90 people who attended the International Pot Luck Lunch certainly enjoyed it! This annual celebration of the cultural diversity of our church family has become an event that many look forward to attending. It's a chance for people in our congregation to make and enjoy food from all over the world. Many thanks to those who helped by cooking, setting up, decorating and cleaning up. We look forward to celebrating this event next year.

A Thanksgiving Interfaith

Afternoon of Service

*Sunday, November 20th
3-4:30pm*

**Edenwald Center, JCCA
of Pleasantville**

We will lead fun activities for the Edenwald residents: sports, games, crafts, fun food activity, etc. The residents are young people dealing with developmental and emotional disabilities and great personal hardship. The more volunteers, the more residents who can enjoy the event.

Open to adults and teen volunteers in grades 9-12 (mature 8th graders can come with supervision). Come to 1075 Broadway, Pleasantville.

Appalachia Service Project Information Meeting



November 14th - 7pm

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:1

Church News

Christmas Pageant

December 11th



We will be sharing the story of Jesus' birth during worship on December 11th. **Everyone** is invited to help us tell the tale of Jesus' birth by playing to roles of shepherds, animals, angels, and of course, Mary, David, and baby Jesus. If you are interested in helping with the Christmas Pageant, talk to Bryan or Kathy Brown.



Advent Fair

Sunday, December 11th

Right after worship

Craft making & fun.

Bring a friend!

Advent Study In December

“Prepare the Way”

Join us for our Advent study, “Prepare the Way”, four weeks of prayer, reflection, and action centered on the themes of peace, justice, fearlessness, and faithfulness. We will meet on Sundays after worship from 11:30am–12:30pm starting November 27th and continuing December 4, 11, and 18. All are welcome! Please let Linda Berg or Pastor Debbie know if childcare is needed.

Should We Tithe?

Talking about tithing causes mixed reactions. Some people who tithe believe they are better off because they give. A non-tither may think that tithers give *because* they are better off. Whatever our perspective, tithing is a practice that appears throughout the pages of Scripture.

So why don't we tithe? The top reason is that we don't trust God enough. We worry that there won't be enough money to pay the bills. Or filled with the busy-ness of our lives, we forget that all we are and all we have are gifts from God. Or perhaps we simply don't see giving as a priority or a regular discipline. We pay our bills and then give from what is leftover. Tithing asks the question: who comes first? Tithing is a statement of faith. Through faith we change our attitude about giving as an obligation, to giving as a joyful opportunity to express love and loyalty to God. A lot of things compete for our money, and God wants His people to put Him first.

(con't on back pg.)

Digital Team Update

Sanctuary Screen

We have had many positive responses to the imagery on the Sanctuary screen both before and during the Sunday service. If you would like to contribute an image to the pre-service slide show, email Bryan.

Help Wanted

As we go forward with our digital goals, we continue to need your help! We especially need a few people who are willing to be trained in running the Service slideshow and managing the recording of the sermon. If you want to be part of our digital team, talk to Bryan or David Fourie

Save the Date

“Parents' Night Out”

December 11th

4-8pm

Sponsored by the Youth Group

The youth group is hosting our 2nd annual Parents' Night Out. This is an opportunity for younger children to join the youth group for a night AND for parents to have a bit more time to get done whatever it is you need to do during this busy time of year.

Parents' Night Out is open to all children 4 years old and up. The Youth Group, along with our youth council adults, will provide games, crafts, dinner and more. We are asking for a \$30 donation per child (with a family cap of \$50) to support the missions of the Youth Group.

RSVP to Bryan by Sunday,
December 4th.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

faith, fun, fellowship and friends, with a bit of mission mixed in

Saturday, Nov 5

Jazz Vespers – Come experience the presence of God at this jazz music service: 5:00pm

Sunday, Nov 6

Mission Night – we will be cooking food for Neighbor's Link and wrapping presents.

Middle School – 4:00 - 6:00pm

High School – 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, Nov 13

Rockin' Jump – Youth Group at Rockin' Jump—all your dreams have come true! *If you haven't been, bring a signed waiver.*

All Youth: 5:00 - 7:00pm

Monday, Nov 14

ASP Informational Meeting – Come learn about ASP 2017!

Fellowship Hall: 7:00pm

Sunday, Nov 20

Youth Group – join us for a evening of fun and games!

High School – 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, Nov 27

Wreath Making – an annual tradition! Drop off and pick up at the Methodist Church

High School: 4:00 - 6:00pm



A season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens:

And for over 6 years, I have spent this season of my life with you. Together we have worked to accomplish each and every part of the youth group mission statement; we have experienced together faith, fun, fellowship and friends with a heaping serving of mission mixed in.

But the season of my life is changing and now is the time for me to return to Florida and live into the next calling God has for me. My last Sunday will be December 18. In this period of transition, I find my heart overflowing with emotion.

I feel blessed to have gotten to know you and to have been able to send this time with you. I feel sad to be leaving this place that I have called home and the people who have been my family here. I feel gratitude for all the ways you have supported me, challenged me, and fed me physically and spiritually along the way. I feel anticipation - tinged with both anxiety and excitement - as I think about how both our journeys will continue to unfold, I know God has big things planned for us.

But mostly I am overwhelmed with love and feeling loved. My life will never be the same because of this time our journeys crossed. My hope is that between today and December 18, my last Sunday, I will have a chance to speak with each of you, and somehow God will give me the words to express what you've meant to me along the way.

From the bottom of my heart, Bryan.

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	2 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	3 9:30am Hearts & Hands Boutique	4 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	5 5pm Jazz Vespers
6 <i>Stewardship Kickoff</i>	7 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	8 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	9 7:30pm Session Mtg.	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	12 6pm Set-up for Stewardship Lunch
8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Hearts & Hands Boutique 11:15am Mission Meeting 4pm Youth Grp. - Bowling						
13 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Stewardship Lunch 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Grp. 6pm Sr. High Youth Grp. 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	15 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	16 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	17 7:30pm "Navigating Transitions"	18 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	19 6pm Set up for Pot Luck Lunch
20 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>	21 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	22 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	23	24 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 5pm Thanksgiving feast	25 9am GBPS Halloween Party 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	26
8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Sr. High Youth Grp. - Wreath Making						
27 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 11:30am Adult Ed. "Advent Study"	28 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	29 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	30 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship			

every day
is **thanks** giving

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Christianity in Qatar

We have now attended the Anglican worship services several times. We are impressed by the determination of so many people to attend worship, braving arcane traffic patterns and crowds and security scanners and very long walks in unshaded sunny heat.

What is officially marked as "Religions Complex" but unofficially called Religion City, is the square mile given to all Christians to build their houses of worship. The Anglican Center serves the Protestant community, with over 30 different groups and 15,000 people worshipping in various parts of the building throughout the weekend. One neighboring building houses the Indian Inter-Denominational Christian Church (the several branches of the ancient Keralan Orthodox church), while the largest building is the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Probably the two largest expatriate groups in Qatar are from India and the Philippines. Within the same complex are also Coptic and Greek and Syrian Orthodox churches. It does seem ironic that the local police last summer drastically tightened security, making it quite a

chore to get to church, with no vehicles and only two pedestrian entrances, with X-ray scanners and metal detectors and anti-tank barriers. That certainly appears discouraging, and yet thousands of people politely and eagerly flock there on Fridays, overflowing the large parking lot. In the midst of a conservative Islamic country, the expatriates are determined to gather together to exercise their right to distinctive worship.

The Anglican service is a delightful mixture of old (robes, procession, communion rail) and new (praise hymns, varied responses). That worshipping community is the most amazingly diverse we have ever seen -- U.S., Canadian, English, Australian, South African, Nigerian, Kenyan, Jamaican, Asian. At one service, a baby was baptized with the liturgy partially in Maori, and a choir sang the offertory hymn in Swahili. We like the group, though we plan to visit other (more specifically American) Protestant services in the next few weeks as well. Next time, more about the development of the Anglican Center and Religion City.

by Jeff Thomas

Tithing

(cont' from pg. 5)

Five ways we will benefit when we give 10% or more of our income to God's work:

1. We will strengthen our trust in God and help further our spiritual growth.
2. We will experience God's creative care in meeting our needs.
3. We will break from feelings of poverty.
4. We will store up treasure in heaven.
5. We will help our church to better serve us and others.

And if that's not convincing enough, researchers compared tithers to non-tithers using nine financial health indicators, and found that tithers were better off in every category. Among tithers, for example, 80 percent have no unpaid credit card bills, 74 percent don't owe anything on their cars, 48 percent own their home and 28 percent are debt-free. This year, pray about what it would mean to intentionally tithe. Imagine all we could do if everyone would.