



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Stories of Summer

Each September we recognize the mission, education, fellowship and growth experiences that our congregation has participated in during the summer. On September 11th, we were blessed to hear about ASP from Katie Schaub, Sophie Raplea, Devin Juros and Audrey Tocco. Additionally we heard from Cordelia Jannetty about her inspiring trip to the Triennium Conference. Angela Ekwu told us about her job at Holmes Camp working with media and communications. Finally, Roy Meares, Andy Kim, Alma Corona and Anna Beatrice Browand helped us learn all about the annual Ecumenical Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all!



Homecoming
2016

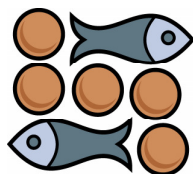
International Pot Luck Lunch



Bring a dish
(for about 8-10)
to share from your
family or culture

Announcing our Loaves and Fishes Program

We are excited to announce the new name of our food program which will be now and forever known as “Loaves and Fishes.” After some trial and error and a lot of reaching out, we have partnered with a “sister church” in Pleasantville by the name Una Esperanza Viva PIN. This is an Assemblies of God congregation of local immigrants who meet at the Methodist Church three times per week.



Pastor Debbie, Sarita Roy (retired Pleasantville social worker), Martha, who is the minister’s wife, and I met recently to discuss how we might be of assistance to this congregation. Martha stated that her congregants are in great need of many things. Since that meeting, we have been providing approximately 12 bags of fruit to members of the congregation who attend an English class taught by Sarita. They are extremely appreciative since, even if they take advantage of the food pantry, they are not able to obtain fresh fruit which is very important for them. *(cont’d on pg.*

Join us for 40-Year Member Celebration

Sunday, October 23rd



Pastor Debbie says Thank you!

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to thank all of you so much for your support in this last month. You have made me feel surrounded by love and concern – you have truly been amazing. Having my family all together meant everything to me, and it was so important for my Dad. The ways you have reached out to me have helped me to begin the grieving process. I am very grateful that my family and I are part of this community of faith. Please continue to pray for my family – and particularly for my Dad, who enjoyed 61 years of marriage with my Mom.

As this fall has gone on, and we've heard the stories of how people have been built up in the body of Christ through their experiences growing in their faith in the world – I am so thankful. As we watch the fall season come in, and consider together what it means to be a person of faith in this time – I know that we are the people of the resurrected Christ. Nothing is impossible with God, and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

May each of us find the strength, the peace and the comfort we need to walk as followers of Jesus in our world. And may we be the body of Christ – to each other, and to everyone we meet along the way.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Oct 1
<i>3rd Grader Bibles</i>	Oct 2
<i>World Communion</i>	Oct 2
<i>Peace Offering</i>	Oct 2
<i>Faith in the Public</i>	Oct 2
<i>Transitions Group</i>	Oct 13
<i>40 Year Member</i>	Oct 23
<i>Int'l Pot Luck Lunch</i>	Oct 23



Young Adult Volunteers get Commissioned

The Young Adult Volunteer program of the Presbyterian Church USA is a one year service opportunity for young adults from 19 to 30 years. YAVs live in intentional Christian community, deepening and developing their faith while serving alongside partners in sites across the United States and around the world.

Our church was blessed to have four YAVs visit us for worship and to take part in their commissioning. Pictured above are Savannah Caccamo, Katie McCormick, Lukus Ebert and Susannah Bryant. Our prayers are with them for their year of service.



**God's Love
in Action**
STEWARDSHIP 2016

Stewardship Save the Dates

November 4th
Leaders' Dinner

November 6th
Stewardship Kickoff

November 13th
Congregational Stew Lunch

November 20th
Stewardship Sunday

Church News

A New Year at Great Beginnings

This fall the weekly morning population at the church expanded by 42 children each day. These eager youngsters, students at Great Beginnings, our church's pre-school, joyfully enter our rooms to learn and play. Our well planned orientation process and our caring staff have guided these children and their anxious parents through the challenge of separation. Our new year has begun and we are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of these

Announcing Scholarship Recipients

The Pleasantville Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is extremely pleased to announce that we have awarded scholarships to Olivia Nemec and Kiernan McCarthy. Olivia is attending Curry College; Kiernan is attending SUNY Geneseo.

As always, many thanks to those of you who have contributed to the fund!

Hearts & Hands Make Blankets & Caps

We are pleased to let you know that our Hearts and Hands Tuesday group recently delivered to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital these knitted blankets and caps for preemies:

- 35 blankets
- 37 caps

Our totals since we began are 715 blankets and 733 caps!



Loaves & Fishes

(cont'd from pg. 1)

We will be ordering from the Food Bank for Westchester for grocery items to be delivered bi-weekly to our church on Fridays. This is where YOU come in! We are looking for individual families, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups and other volunteer community groups to help. We will have the food items in the church and are asking for groups to sign up to pack groceries in bags for pick up Sunday by the minister of the church.

Look for a weekly sign-up sheet in the lobby. You will also get a friendly reminder via email. Thank you to all for your passion to help these families in need and this mission to continue to evolve. *by Jane*

Women's Bible Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10-11:30am
Campbell Room

Studying "Who is This Man?"
by John Ortberg

Come join us!

Christmas for Appalachia is Coming! We're supporting 33 families We need everyone's help!

Our church's special ties to Appalachia get stronger every year. You generously supported the Appalachia Service Project this past summer. How about reaching out to Appalachia this winter? Our church will be sponsoring Appalachian families who find it hard to buy holiday gifts for their kids and other loved ones.

Here's how to become a part of this very personal mission:

- Look for the table in Fellowship Hall after church in October. We'll have details about the families and what to buy.
- Select a family you want to sponsor.
- Shop and mail your gifts. Guidelines suggest around \$25 per person. Any amount is much appreciated!

Want to help with this project?

Talk with Kim Lewis to be part of the team!



Midnight Run

Saturday, November 5th

Mission to those currently homeless in NYC

Talk with Dave Smutzler if you are interested in going on the Run —747-3331.

Wanted!

Men's blue jeans & light jackets

Church News

Fall Food Drive for Children's Village

This fall we'll collect non-perishable foods for the Interfaith Food Pantry and Children's Village, a residential program for boys. Children's Village will send home...



200 baskets of food

at Thanksgiving, so the need is great. We'll kick off this mission project in October. Special bags will be distributed, which was so successful last year!

Fill a bag and help feed families!

Social Justice Interns

Over the past two years, the Social Justice Internship has done some amazing things; film screenings, conferences, trips to Albany and the U.N. and much more.

This year we want YOU to be involved, so this year our Social Justice Interns are going to work to help you be more socially just. Keep your eyes peeled and look to see them in action in the coming weeks!

Sunday School Update

Our Sunday School program kicked off on September 18th. Our Pre-Schoolers, Elementary Schoolers, and Middle Schoolers are all learning about the foundational figures of our faith, from Abraham to Jacob and beyond. Our High Schoolers are following along with Pastor Debbie's sermon series on Faith in the Public Square. We can't wait to see what else is coming this year!

Sunday Service Sanctuary Screen Producers Wanted!

The Digital Outreach Team is looking for a few folks who are interested in helping "produce" our Sunday morning service. We will provide all the training necessary to get you up to speed and confident running the screens, sound, and sermon recording. If you are interested in joining this team, talk to Bryan.



Church-Wide Apple Picking

October 16th After Worship

Sponsored by the Youth Group
Everyone is invited to join the church family in fun, food and fantastic apples at the Wilkens Farm in Yorktown Heights. We will carpool to the farm after worship, have fun picking apples, enjoy some fresh apple cider (and maybe a donut or two), then head back to the church.

If you don't know what to do with all the apples you pick, we will have a basket to accept donations to the church's Loaves and Fishes Hunger Project.

Connecting with our Young Adults

We are eager to reach out to our young adult members, connect with them and include them in the church directory. If you have email or phone information for a young adult member, please send it to Barb Loizeaux newsletter@pvillepresby.org.

Favorite Stewardship Quotes

We are surrounded by God's benefits. The best use of these benefits is an unceasing expression of gratitude.
John Calvin, Theologian

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us - and He has given us everything.
Thomas Merton, Trappist Monk

Patrick Henry wrote into his will that if he had left nothing in terms of worldly riches but had given his heirs a faith in Jesus Christ, then they were of all people most wealthy.

God's work done in God's way will never lack for funds. Generosity is contagious. God never promised to meet our budget, only our needs.
J. Hudson Taylor, British Christian Missionary to China

Jesus establishes clearly that the greedy accumulation of things is an attempt by persons to evade dependency on God. The one who greedily hoards possessions in order to establish security for the future lacks the faith that Jesus expects of those who follow Him. Our security, according to Jesus, is in our relationship to God in whose hands lies our future.
Tony Campolo, Pastor and former spiritual advisor to President Bill Clinton

The compassionate life is a grateful life, and actions born out of gratefulness are not compulsive but free, not somber, but joyful, not fanatical but liberating. When gratitude is the source of our actions, our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers.
Unknown



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Saturday, Oct 1

Jazz Vespers – Come reflect, pray, heal and experience the presence of God through music at this jazz service. – 5:00pm

Sunday, Oct 2

Mission – Join us as we cook food for Neighbors Link and make birthday cards!

Middle School: 4:30 - 6:30pm
High School: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, Oct 9

No PYC - enjoy the weekend!

Sunday, Oct 16

Church Wide Apple Picking – everyone is invited to Wilkens Farm for apple picking!

Everyone – 12:00 - 3:00pm

Sunday, Oct 23

A-Home – we will be joining the Westchester Youth Alliance for an A-Home work day! So grab your gloves and meet at the church ready to do some work!

High School: 12:30 - 4:30pm

Sunday, Oct 30

Shopping for Christmas in Appalachia!

All Youth: 4:00 - 7:00pm



Kicking off another Great Year!

Thanks to everyone who helped us kick off another great season of Youth Group. Between adventures at the barbecue, including launching candy off the roof of the church, to adventures at camp Holmes, including some time in the GaGa Pit, this is proving to be an awesome year!

Mission Cooking and Cards — October 2

We are continuing our relationship with Neighbors Link in Mount Kisco by preparing more food. In the past we've made packed lunches and breakfast burritos, come to Youth Group to find out what we're up to this time!

Church Wide Apple Picking — October 16

We all know why YOU love Youth Group, and think it's about time for the rest of the church to experience it, too. So we are sponsoring a church wide Apple Picking event, open to EVERYONE! We will all head down to the farm, pick some apples, make some new friends, and then the youth group will host a refreshments table on the way out.



A-Home Work Day — October 23

The Westchester Youth Alliance is an interfaith youth program that "provides a vehicle for teens to engage in dialogue and action based on common values." We will be joining them for an A-Home workday. Be sure to wear pants, close-toed shoes and bring your work gloves!

Shopping for Christmas in Appalachia — October 30

Each year, the youth group adopts an Appalachian Family and we buy, wrap and ship Christmas presents. This is a great event, so be sure to be there!

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5pm Jazz Vespers
2 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 10am 3 rd Gr. Bible Recognition 11:15am Mission Meeting 11:30am Adult Ed. Sermon Series – “Faith in Action” 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Grp. 6pm Sr. High Youth Grp.	3 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886	4 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	5 7:30pm Session Mtg. 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship	6	7 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	8
9 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 <i>Columbus Day</i>	11 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	12	13 7:30pm “Navigating Transitions”	14 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	15
	6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886					
16 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 12pm Youth Grp. – Wilkens Farm – Apple Picking	17 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886	18 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	19 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship	20	21 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	22 6pm Set up for Pot Luck Lunch
23 <i>40 year Member Recognition</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am International Pot Luck Lunch 1pm Sr. High Youth Grp. – A-Home work Day	24 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886	25 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	26 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship	27	28 9am GBPS Halloween Party 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	29
30 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon’s Meeting 11:30am Adult Ed. “Spiritual Practices for the Journey” 4pm Youth Grp. – shopping for Appalachia	31  6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886					

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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The Thomases are in Qatar!

After three years as sponsored Christian teaching missionaries in Seoul, Korea, God called us back to the Middle East, to teach in Qatar. Our years in Saudi Arabia have made our transition here easier - we already know the culture, the religion, the environment, but more importantly, how to be Christian in a Muslim country. We look forward to supporting the Christian community here and modeling Christ's love to our students.

We are settling in our apartment in Al Wakra, Qatar (yes, emphasis on the first syllable: QATar with a sort of soft initial K sound). The apartment is spacious and solid, with good air-conditioning and reliable electricity and fairly reliable water. The school owns the building, so we know all our neighbors automatically, and we leave our door unlocked. We are about 5 miles down the coast from the airport, so we can easily pick you up if you come to visit!

Most of the teachers are US or Canadian, with a few Europeans and Middle Easterners in the mix. Most of the students are local Qataris whose parents want them to learn both English and to go to a western university -- or at least one of the several university branches in Qatar. Ours is a private school, owned by one of the family businesses in this suburb of the capital. The country offers its citizens a voucher system which pays parents when their children pass a school year (with certain attendance requirements). Then again, Qatar citizens have the

highest per capita income in the world, so they can afford private school tuition.

Part of **Vision International School's** cachet rests in the fact that it is managed by ISS, International Schools Services (based in Princeton), thereby enforcing higher standards than most other schools in the area. Our school is determinedly secular, in that religious celebrations and symbols are limited to the Islamic Studies classes. Some of the families are quite conservative, wanting to keep boys and girls separated, and wanting the girls to keep their hair covered. Still, we are glad that they want an American education, with its values of open inquiry, scientific discipline and global perspective. As with most schools, we limit discussion of religion and political topics -- we must be quite careful to avoid any hint of proselytizing, and Palestine is a sore subject. Next

chapters:
more about
Qatar's
position in the
world, and
about our
going to
church here.

*Barbara & Jeff
Thomas*

