



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Welcome to our Ministry Associates!



Hannah Scanlon

Hannah grew up in southern New Hampshire, and just received her Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Although she grew up in the Southern Baptist Church, she became a Presbyterian during a church internship in south Jersey. She is a graduate of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan with a degree in philosophy. She told us, "This is a year of discernment for me, to help me discover where God is leading me next."

She has a love of philosophy and teaching and looks forward to being a part of our Christian Ed team with adults and children. *(cont'd on back pg.)*



Katelyn Westervelt

Katelyn first heard about our Intern Program through the Quimbys who know her family through the Tres Dias ministry. Fairfield, Connecticut is home for Katelyn and she is currently a graphic design major at Norwalk Community College. She plans to continue her studies part time while working with us. Katelyn has a love of art and technology and we look forward to having her work with our congregation on projects that include those two areas.

She grew up attending the First Congregational Church in Wallingford, Connecticut and was very active in youth activities. *(cont'd on back pg.)*



This past July, 51 Pleasantville volunteers spent a week in Cross Lanes, WV doing home repair mission work with Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP recognized our church's 20 years of service with a certificate of appreciation.

Mission Statement

We are a people of God seeking to proclaim and live out the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We are called by God through the Holy Spirit to serve as a spiritual presence in our community:

- ◆ Nurturing spiritual growth and renewal;
- ◆ Providing sanctuary in a fast-paced world;
- ◆ Reaching out and sharing Christ with all;
- ◆ Passing on our faith to the next generation;
- ◆ Serving God through mission outreach.

Our love and prayers go out to.....

Barb and Jeff Thomas – teachers in Doha, Qatar

Doris Schellhas

Julia Smith

Shane Watson at Otisville Correctional Facility

Joseph Makosky

Doris Zaros

Alex, Sally & Pete Demeropolous

Heather Gilson

Betty deLaive

Taek-Sang Shin (Young Ran Shin's father)

Louise Hare

Eileen Edwards

Dick Kersten

Christine Alvis' Mom, Marjorie Deutschmann

Eileen Edward's daughter, Jennifer

Don Bevill, Nicole Browand's step-father

Frank Gortsema

Rose Kantenwein

Dave Johnson

Ronald Kevern

Co Holby

Doris Schellhas

October deadline: September 15, 2018

Staff The Rev. Dr. Debra J. K. Bronkema *Pastor*

Ruth Fischer *Director of Great Beginnings Pre-School*

Jane Wong *Project Mission Coordinator*

Dr. David Macdonald *Music Director*

Evan Closser *Organist*

Wendy Zaros *Soloist*

Hannah Scanlon, *Associate Intern*

Katelyn Westervelt, *Associate Intern*

Jo Anna Tivnan *Office Administrator*

Contact The Church Phone (914) 769-0458 Email Info@pvillepresby.org;

Info on the Web Website www.PvillePresby.org

Facebook Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

Newsletter Staff *Editor* – Barbara Loizeaux; *Proofreaders*– Christina Campriello and Leslie Quimby

Newsletter Articles To submit an article to the Newsletter, you can email Barb Loizeaux at newsletter@pvillepresby.org. Deadline each month is the 15th. We also like suggestions! – The Newsletter Staff

Pastor Debbie on Beginnings



Dear Friends in Christ,

Everywhere I look, I sense that chapters are beginning. In my home, where we now have three college students – and one thirteen-year-old, ready to begin the adventure that is eighth grade, it's obvious that change is happening. In our church, we are moving into the beginning of the new program year – when we spend time intentionally considering how we can help those who are seeking to know God and connect with each other on our journeys of faith. The arrival of our new associates, Katelyn and Hannah, is an exciting sign that something new is happening – a new chapter is beginning.

I'm so thankful for the community we have here – with its commitment to welcoming all the people who come our way. On the last Sunday in August, as I was finishing a week of college drop offs, our congregation commissioned three Young Adults to serve in the world as volunteers going on a journey of faith, trusting Jesus for their new chapter. Here's some words from the note they left:

Dear Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your radical hospitality and excitement as you commissioned us this morning! We hope you enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed talking and meeting all of you! (Preacher) Kim mentioned hospitality in the sermon, and it is clear your church community lives those words. From Mark taking us on the scenic route, to Gary's silly hat, we felt welcome, and we can tell others do too! Fondly Dakota, Helen and Tanner

They invite us to participate with them in their year, by praying for them, and reading their blogs, which can be found here:

Helen's blog:

helencrichardson.wordpress.com

Tanner's blog:

writeontheborder.wordpress.com

Dakota's blog:

yohabloelamor.wordpress.com

So – as we begin the next chapter of our life of faith together, may we be praying for each other, and for all the people we meet along the way.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Debbie

Scholarship Committee Update

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that \$3,500 was awarded this past summer to deserving Pleasantville Presbyterian scholars. As always, the Committee encourages you to consider replenishing our account with a donation. Many thanks!



L to R:
Dakota Kohfield
(Serving in Tucson),
Tanner Kohfield
(Serving in Tucson),
Helen Richardson
(Serving in Scotland)

Young Adult Volunteers Commissioned at Worship Service

Each summer, we are blessed to meet several people who are beginning a year of service through the Presbyterian Church (USA) through a program called "Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)." The YAV program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30, in 22 sites around the world and in the United States. All the volunteers participate in training at the Stony Point Center and then fan out to local congregations for their commissioning. On Sunday, August 26th, we met and commissioned three such volunteers as they embark on a year of service.

Our Church Program is Featured on PCUSA Mission Website

This past July our Hunger Action Program was recognized by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The article highlighted the programs and ministries our church has initiated and participated in over the last few years.

We hope you take the time to read it, if you haven't already. Go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org> and search for "Pleasantville".

Church News

Youth Group BBQ

September 16th

All 5th-12th graders and friends are welcome to this start-of-the-year event! Front lawn of the church. See more details on the Youth page.



Midnight Run

Saturday, September 22nd

Mission to those currently homeless in NYC

Next Run - November 10th

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

Save the Date!

International Potluck Lunch



Sunday, October 28th
After Worship

A wonderful way to celebrate our heritages through food and fellowship

Save the Date!

40-Year Member Celebration



Sunday,
October 28th

Calling all Foodies

(or wanna-be's)

Because our first cooking class was so well received, we have decided to offer more. Harry Lewis' original idea was to provide basic cooking lessons for our youth going off to college and we do have a plan to offer this type of class again during the Christmas break.

However, several of you have expressed interest in having more advanced classes. We are excited to offer classes, but we need to know what you're interested in making. Do you want a class on making soups and stews? Baking and pastry making? What about making vegetables in ways that taste better - because we all know we should eat more of them? Please see Harry Lewis or Jane Wong to brainstorm what you would like to learn.

Freedom for Shane Watson!

After 25 years of incarceration, Shane Watson appeared before the Parole Board in Otisville on June 26. In an extremely quick decision, the Parole Board granted Shane his freedom and set his release date for October 9, 2018, the earliest allowable release date under the terms of Shane's sentence.

Shane wrote that his meeting with the Parole Board felt like "a supernatural occurrence," unusual in many ways. He was able to speak to each one of the commissioners, which is rare, even maintaining his innocence. He said that decisions can take up to 14 days, but he got his in 48 hours. He is grateful for every prayer and for the many support letters written on his behalf.

For more than a dozen years, our congregation has been praying for Shane, corresponding with him, and helping to raise funds for his legal defense. Shane and his family are deeply grateful for all of the support they have received, not just from our church but from the wide network of folks who have joined this effort to bring about justice for Shane.

On July 10th, Shane was moved from Otisville Correctional Facility to Queensboro Correctional Facility, a minimum-security prison, where most inmates are sent just prior to their release.

As always, cards and letters are greatly appreciated. If you would like to write to Shane, here is the new and final address in prison:

Mr. Shane Watson
DIN 93A9384
c/o Queensboro Correctional Facility
47-04 Van Dam St.
Long Island City, NY 11101

(Reminder: envelopes must include your return address.)

Church News

Homecoming and Sunday School Kick Off

Be sure to join us on September 9th as we celebrate our Homecoming. You will hear first-hand experiences from people who participated in ASP, EVBS, summer camp and more.

Then, the next week, on September 16th, we will kick off another amazing Sunday School season. So be there, ready for stories, activities and crafts exploring creation.



We are looking for a few new Sunday School teachers. You will enjoy connecting with the children and have a chance to dive deeper into some Bible stories and fun activities.

If you are a first time teacher, talk to Nicole Browand, and she'll arrange to have you help one of our more experienced teachers.

Hearts and Hands Help Cancer Unit

We at Hearts and Hands have been busy on a new summer project: making small comfort pillows for those in cancer treatment. Bags full of pillows in various stages of construction are waiting for completion and delivery to the Westchester Medical Center Cancer Care Unit. A number remain to be stuffed and sewn shut, but it won't be long before they are on their way.

If you have a bit of leftover summer and would like to use it to help, you are welcome to join us on Tuesdays to work on this project. You can come just once, or as many times as you choose. We have work for your free hands and good company while you do it.

POP News and Pledge Reminder

Summer has been a busy time for the Preserve our Property (POP) project. If you haven't passed by Ashland Avenue lately, we encourage you to go take a look at the manse makeover (and ask the Bronkema's how they like their new house!). The manse has all new windows and doors, new garage doors, fresh paint, a new furnace and extensive landscaping.

- The Christian Education wing got its new roof, you may have seen the construction while it was in progress. Next up will be the solar panel installation which will provide the electric energy for the CE building and the Sanctuary.
- The Carriage House gutters have been cleaned and shrubs trimmed to improve overall drainage. There is a new side door entrance as well as three new interior doors in the upstairs apartment. Our new Associates are sharing common living space there and each has a private bedroom. Welcome Hannah and Katelyn!
- In the Sanctuary the exterior doors leading to the "bride's room" are being replaced and framework repaired.

All work was done with a combination of volunteers and professionals and is already making our buildings warmer, safer, drier and more environmentally "green".

Additional work is on the horizon. We are grateful for the 2018 pledge fulfillment we have received so far. We encourage everyone to **fulfill your 2018 POP pledge** so we can plan winter projects that will continue to improve our properties. You can still be involved even if you haven't made your pledge yet. No pledge or gift is too big or too small. Together our efforts have made (and will continue to make) a big impact on our community today and in the years to come.

Calling all Prospective Bell Ringers



Have you thought it might be fun to learn how to ring hand bells? Or have you rung in the past and thought it would be nice to ring again? The bell choir is open to anyone high school age or older who can read basic music and likes to have fun!

If you decide to join the choir, it is a short commitment. We will ring one Sunday in November and then you can decide if you want to continue with us for the winter. Rehearsals are from 7:30 – 9 PM in the choir room on Tuesdays. Our rehearsals will begin September 18. To jump on board or for more information, contact Cathy Fellows at 741-2734.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

September Youth



Who? *Youth in grades 5-12 and parents*

What? *Annual "kick-off" barbecue*

Where? *Church front lawn*

When? *September 16th at 5:00 PM*



Welcome back, bring a friend

September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship Childcare in the Nursery	3 LABOR <i>Day</i>	4 10am Hearts & Hands 7:30pm Special Session Mtg.	5 9am GBPS Teacher Mtg. 7pm Stewardship Mtg.	6 9am GBPS Open Classroom 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	7 9:30am GBPS Meet & Greet 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	8
9 Homecoming 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10	11 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	12 9:30am GBPS Orientation 7:30pm Session Mtg.	13 9:30am GBPS Orientation 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	14 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	15
16 Sunday School Kickoff 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Youth Grp BBQ	17	18 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	19	20 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.	21 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	22 Leadership Retreat
23 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Youth Grp	24	25 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	26 7pm Stewardship Mtg.	27 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	28 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	29
30 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 5pm Youth Grp						

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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www.PvillePresby.org

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EVBS Week - Fun, Faith and Some Great Music!

The Pleasantville Ecumenical Vacation Bible School was held August 6th-10th at Emanuel Lutheran Church and was co-sponsored by Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, Holy Rosary Parish, Holy Innocents Parish, St. John's Episcopal Church, and The United Methodist Church of Pleasantville.



This year's theme was Shipwrecked: Saved by Jesus, and over 120 kids were in attendance for an energetic and fun week! As usual, the highlight of the week was a rousing Thursday evening performance, with the always inspiring Mr. Chris leading the kids in worship (including some fun new renditions of pop music from the 1980s.)

If you would like to be a part of EVBS next year, ask Nicole Browand (nbrowand@gmail.com) for more information.

Our New Ministry Associates

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Meet Hannah Scanlon

Hannah added, "I particularly look forward to becoming a part of your Church...joining with you as a group of individual disciples of Christ who exist for each other in the common life of a local church, is a reflection of God's wider work in the world."

In her spare time she loves to run and is an avid reader. You might be surprised to know that her fondness for chips and salsa is unparalleled. Hannah would love to get to know people in the congregation better, so feel free to invite her for a "sit down and chat." Welcome Hannah!

Meet Katelyn Westervelt

Photography is a huge passion of Katelyn's, and she gets great satisfaction from taking pictures of people doing what they love to do. She also has a love of music and you might be surprised to know that she plays five (yes 5!) musical instruments....piano, base guitar, trombone, euphonium and steel pan.

Katelyn told us, "I believe in the church, the growth of the church, and the youth in the church...I can already feel the love and joy of this church and the people in it. I'm so thrilled to be starting on this journey with all of you!" Welcome Katelyn!
