



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

EVBS Came to our Church This Year!



We were blessed to host the annual Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, EVBS, this summer. The theme was "Hero Central: Discovering Your Strength in God." The program was full of super heroes, Bible stories, crafts, games and the wonderful music of Mr. Chris! The

church was bursting at the seams with over 120 kids and many, many youth and adult volunteers. On Thursday night, families and friends enjoyed a special worship service and were able to hear more about how the children grew in their faith all week. Special thanks to the Fourie family, especially Anel, for their hard work and dedication to this ministry. Thanks also to those from our church who participated and volunteered for this "best week of the year" event!



POP Update

The Preserve Our Property Committee is pleased to announce that we have pledges of \$500,136! The POP Campaign Team is encouraged by the wonderful response from our congregation and friends – we are nearly 90% of the way to our goal of \$569,000, which includes our contingency fund. Please don't think it's too late to make your pledge, we need everybody's help to take us across the finish line!

(cont'd on pg. 3)

Adult Ed

"The Spiritual Practice of Discernment"

Mark your calendar for a two-part Adult Ed after worship on Sunday September 17th and 24th for "The Spiritual Practice of Discernment®". Discernment, the spiritual practice of decision making, offers a way to see God's call in the midst of the decisions that mark one's life. What does God want me to do? How can I know for sure?

Join us as we learn more about this spiritual practice from Pastor Debbie. Class will meet in the Campbell Room 11:30 - 12:30. All are welcome!

Planning Ahead for Programs at our Church

Plan to join us after worship on Sunday, October 1st (11:30am - 12:30pm) as we consider where we are and where we would like to go as Pleasantville Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to a time of talking, thinking and sharing.

If you are unable to join us on October 1st, additional sessions will be held during the week on October 19th and 24th. Times and locations to be announced.

We'd love to hear from all of you!



Pastor Debbie on New Year's Resolutions

Dear Friends in Christ,

As September comes around the corner - no matter what our age there's a little bit of us that feels like it's time to go back to school.

I like the advice Mark Yaconelli gave in his open letter to teenagers - as a lesson we're never too old to learn. He said, "Anything that leaves you more fearful, more isolated, more disconnected from other people, more full of judgment or self-hatred, is not of God, does not follow the Rule of Love - and you should stop doing it."

So in this second opportunity to make New Year's resolutions - what do you want to stop doing? And what do you want to start doing? How do you want to grow in your faith and life? Consider

joining one of our church's Bible studies - or coming to Adult Education as it begins on Sunday, September 17th with a series on the Spiritual Practice of Discernment. Maybe this is a time for you to grow in your faith by teaching others - we have opportunities for you to teach Sunday School and get to know and be part of the lives of some of our youngest folks.

Whatever spiritual growth you'd like to focus on this fall - know that you are on a journey with the body of Christ - and we're glad to be with you on the way!

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

Jazz Vespers	Sept 9
Homecoming	Sept 10
Teacher Training	Sept 16
Sunday School Kickoff	Sept 17
Adult Ed - Discernment	Sept 17
Youth Group Kickoff	Sept 17
Adult Ed - Discernment	Sept 24
Transitions Group	Sept 28
Adult Ed - Planning Ahead	Oct 1

Preserve Our Property

(cont'd from pg. 1)

We look forward to accepting your 2107 donations by October. Thank you to those who have already done so.

We're please to report that some projects are already planned or underway in the sanctuary, the CE building and the manse. To find out more details, talk with Christine Alvis. Heartfelt thanks to all for your enthusiasm and amazing generosity.

Grandma's Girl

I owe my Christian faith to my grandmother.

She is in all the memories from my childhood days in South Korea. My mother was an elementary schoolteacher who worked full-time, so my grandmother was in charge of the household. That included taking care of little me. My grandmother, a convert from Buddhism to Christianity, loved me very much and took me everywhere she went. During my preschool days, I accompanied her to a week-long evangelical Bible class. The service ran for hours, so I sometimes took a nap on her lap

only to wake up later and find the service still going. The congregation, consisting mostly of stay-at-home moms and elderly women, sang hymns for hours with great enthusiasm. I did too. Singing was one way of affirming our faith out loud.

Sometimes my mother received gifts from her students' parents. These gifts were usually sent away to my grandmother's pastor the very next day. That echoed the Buddhist tradition of sending a sack of rice to the temple. There was something to learn from both faiths.

My journey as a Christian began when I tagged along on my grandmother's trips to church, hanging on her skirt. It has continued with Sunday school and it's still going. These days, during our worship, we sing at least one of the hymns that I used to sing with my grandmother's congregation many decades ago. Then I stop and think of my grandma's love and the deep faith she instilled in me.

by Jenny London

If you have a faith story to tell, please let the Editor know!

Church News

Scholarships are Given Out

Can you help replenish the fund?

We are happy to report that a total of \$6,000 in scholarship money was distributed this past summer. Now we are looking for contributions to help replenish the Scholarship Fund.

The Scholarship Committee has regretfully accepted the resignation of long-time committee member Micki Eschweiler, who has for several decades infused the committee with wisdom, humor, and compassion. Her love of students, combined with her desire to help them succeed in college, made her the ideal scholarship committee member.

As always, thanks for your support!

Scott Mosenthal, Lorraine Harrigan, Committee

New Beginnings at Great Beginnings



Our church's Great Beginnings Pre-school is excited to welcome Laura Kretzmer to our staff. She will work with Loreen as a co-teacher in our Storybook Mondays. Laura is the mother of 2. Her younger daughter was a Great Beginnings graduate. She has most recently taught kindergarten in Harrison but wants to be home more now that her children are teenagers. Laura joins our dedicated and talented staff who guide our children to a great beginning in their educational journey.

Are You Connected?

Did you know that our church has many online resources. To access these, go to www.pvillepresby.org and click on "Digital Connections" on the top menu.

Subscribe and get all the goodness of a Sunday service in your inbox.

Pastor Debbie's sermons - Miss a week? Want to hear the Sunday message? No problem!

Facebook page - Get a dose of inspiration and stay connected through the week. Be sure to share our posts with friends.

YouTube channel - See lots of videos of our church life.

Newsletter online - Email JATivnan@pvillepresby.org to get the alerts.

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 -9pm in the Choir Room on Tuesdays. Our rehearsals will begin October 3rd. To jump on board, or for more information, contact Cathy Fellows.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

Peace and Global Witness Offering

October 1st

The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2017. Your gift enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world.

The distribution of this offering includes 25% that will be retained for our congregation to use locally in connection with the global witness of Christ's peace. An additional 25% will be used for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Please remember this important ministry and give generously.

Save the Date!

International Potluck Lunch



Sunday, October 22nd
After Worship

A wonderful way to celebrate our heritages through food and fellowship

Church News



Aiden Robert Silviotti was baptized on August 6th. Blessings to Aiden's parents Courtney and Brian Silviotti and to his grandparents Cathy and Bob Fellows.

Navigating Transitions

Thursday, September 28th
7:30-9pm in the Church Library

The group is an open forum to share our experiences and provide support, encouragement, and inspiration to each other as we navigate life transitions.

All are welcome.

For more information, please speak with Linda Berg or Jane Wong.

Women's Bible Fellowship

Tuesdays
starting September 12th
10-11:30am Campbell Room

*"Sermon on the Mount:
Connect with God"*
By Bill Hybels

Come try it!

*For more info, talk with
Nicole Browand or Barb Loizeaux*

Homecoming

September 10th

Be sure to join us on September 10th as we return from mountain top experiences over the summer. Come to worship to hear about the wonderful experiences of ASP, EVBS and summer camps from those who went!

Sunday School Kickoff

September 17th

We are excited for Sunday School to start again on September 17th. We are preparing lessons, crafts, videos, and more to create an AWESOME Sunday School year. It's a great time for the children of our church, grades Pre-K through 12th, to meet their teachers and see their classrooms and to hear about what's in store for the Sunday School year.



Sunday School Theme for the Fall

Our Sunday School fall theme is "**School and Relationships**". Our topic will range from family, belonging and friends. Our curriculum will allow kids to learn about God in ways that connect to their lives and to the world. It will include engaging activities, games and videos that will help our students learn the word of God and about God's creation. We look forward to having your child participate.



Youth Group Kickoff

September 17th

5-7pm
Front lawn of the Church
Grades 5-12

Bring a friend or 2!

*For more info contact
Maria Murerwa
Maria@pvillepresby.org*

For future events see Youth page.

Thinking about becoming a Sunday School Teacher?



It's a great experience! Talk with Maria or Kathy Brown

★ Teacher Training

Saturday, September 16th @ 10am
With Rev. Bill Eschen ★

Church News

New Perspectives on the ASP Mission Experience



This summer's Appalachia Service Project home repair mission trip took our volunteers to a new destination: Kentucky! Pleasantville ASP's 57 volunteers spent a week in July in the town of Louisa, just across the Big Sandy River from West Virginia. Despite a heat wave that kept temperatures in the mid-nineties, our 8 teams made substantial progress building and repairing homes for 6 families.

Each time volunteers commit to serving with ASP, we take a big leap of faith. Each mission trip is a venture to an unfamiliar, remote part of the country. Before the trip, we don't have much information about the families we will meet or the construction projects we will be assigned to do. During the trip, volunteers live in close quarters with other volunteers we may not know very well beforehand.

This year, one of our first-time volunteers confronted these unknowns and wrote about her experience afterwards. Maria Murerwa, who serves as our church's Children and Youth Ministries Director, described her experience as follows:

"The way of life I saw in Louisa, Kentucky was not new to me. I have seen and lived it myself growing up in East Africa. Because of that, I had some worries going in, like will I fit in? Will this remind me of some hard times I'd rather not think about? Can I overcome my fears by going? These were just a few of my questions as I got ready for the trip.

"My ASP experience is best summed up in an African phrase, 'ubuntu.' Ubuntu is hard to translate exactly in English. It means humanity, compassion. It means my (our) humanity is bound up in yours, if only we can be humans together. My week with ASP was full of moving and powerful 'God moments' that reminded me of the power of togetherness. Learning and working along the team of adults and teens helped to renew and restore my faith in God and in his creation. It was a reminder that we are called to serve one another in action and prayer. In particular, this experience introduced me to a tenacious young couple who are so hopeful for their four little girls and are trying build a safe home for them. Little girls who are full of dreams of changing the world when they grow up. One of the girls (standing in the picture) told me she wants to be an architect. I was one of those little girls once upon a time!

"Over all, it was an experience that I will forever keep close to my heart. I am grateful to have had this opportunity and for not letting that fear of the unknown, but yet so known, stop me from going on this mission trip. Thank you to all those who made it happen."



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Saturday September 9

Jazz Vespers — 5:00 pm

Come reflect, pray, heal and experience the presence of God through music. Followed by fellowship. Bring a friend!

Sunday September 10th

Homecoming

Join us in worship to hear stories from our amazing summer experiences; ASP, Camp and EVBS.

Worship at 10:00 am

Sunday September 17th

PYC Kick off Barbeque 5:00-8:00

Junior and Senior High students are invited for food and fun on the Church front lawn. Parents welcome too!

Sunday September 24th

Improv Night 5:00-8:00

Join in on the fun with Eileen Walton. She will teach us some new games and challenge your spontaneity!

Sunday October 1st

Apple and Pumpkin Picking 1:00

Join us for our second annual intergenerational fall outing. Fun for children of all ages! Meet at the church.



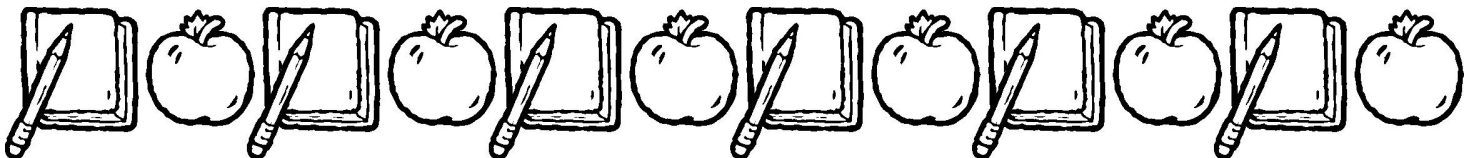
PYC hours will be from 5:00-8:00
Junior HS 5:00-7:00
Senior HS 6:00-8:00
The groups will overlap from 6:00
till 7:00 for dinner

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SEPTEMBER 2017

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



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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An Update on our Loaves and Fishes Ministry



We are happy to let you know that the Loaves and Fishes food ministry is going well. We order monthly from the Food Bank for Westchester spending approximately \$450 each time. Every other week Pastor Enrique and helpers come from the Assembly of God congregation to pick up the food. We have provided over 11,000 meals since we began last October! FYI, Enrique and wife Martha just had a baby girl who they named Genesis!

I have lots of help from various members of the congregation and the Social Justice Interns who also

help fill emergency food bags for individuals who visit us "off the street." I continue supplying fruit to AA three days per week, to the ESL class run by Sarita Roy bi-monthly as well as keeping a "hospitality" bowl of fruit in the lobby during the week.

Michelle Torosian alerted me to the PCUSA Hunger Program. I filled out an application and we have received the special designation as a Certified Hunger Action Congregation. We will be recognized on World Food Day (October 16) during PCUSA's "Food Week of Action. Look for the letter and official certificate!

by Jane Wong

Summer Happenings



**EVBS
2017**
Ecumenical Vacation
Bible School



**ASP
2017**
Appalachia
Service
Project