



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Stewardship and Giving News

We are grateful for all the folks who were busy in their kitchens making our 4th annual **“Stew” Lunch** an outstanding success. Like the story of the Loaves and Fishes, our food multiplied to feed 11 tables full of people who enjoyed delicious homemade stews, crusty breads and mouthwatering desserts. We say thank you too, to all those who helped with the setting up, scrubbing up and putting away afterwards.



On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we deeply appreciate all of you who returned your **pledge cards** in person or by mail. As we continue to be *God's Love in Action* this year, we remember that through our faith in Jesus and our faithful financial contributions we will do amazing things in 2017. Thanks be to God!

Potluck Lunch

**“Thanksgiving
for
Bryan’s Ministry”**

Sunday, December 18th

Join us on Sunday, December 18th after worship and the Congregational Meeting for a potluck lunch to express our thanks to Bryan Bardin for his years of ministry with us. Bring a dish to share if you are able, but plan to come not matter what to wish Bryan all the best for his future! Contact Cathy Fellows, if you have any questions.

Navigating Transitions for Us and Others

The Navigating Transitions group has been meeting monthly with co-leaders Linda Berg and Jane Wong. It is an open group and you are cordially invited to attend because we have discovered that we are always transitioning.

Our next session is Thursday December 15 at 7:30pm. We are happy to report that Linda and Jane were asked to conduct a Transitions group at the Clinton Street Senior Center. Ask them about it.

JAZZ
vespers

*Saturday, December 3rd
at 5pm*

**Advent
Fair**

Sunday, December 11th
Right after worship
Craft making & fun.
Bring
a friend!

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 11th
During worship

Thanksgiving Celebration

The Thanksgiving Dinner continued this year under the leadership and work of Pastor Debbie and Jane Wong. There were over 25 people in attendance who enjoyed the wonderful food and fellowship.



Save the Dates

Jazz Vespers	Dec 3
Advent Study	Dec 4
Christmas Pageant	Dec 11
Advent Fair	Dec 11
Advent Study	Dec 11
Parents' Night Out	Dec 11
Transitions Group	Dec 15
Christmas Posada Party	Dec 16
Special Christmas Music	Dec 18
Congregational Meeting	Dec 18
Farewell to Bryan	Dec 18



*Christmas Eve
Worship*

Family Candlelight Service
7pm
Candlelight Service
11pm

Come Vote at the Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 18th

Be part of the process! Come to the Congregational Meeting, right after worship, when members of the congregation elect elders, deacons and members of the 2017 Nominating Committee. We will also vote on the "terms of call" for Pastor Debbie and "transact such other business as may be appropriate" at this meeting.

Year-end Giving Opportunities

Have you considered making a separate end-of-year gift to the Endowment Fund? You can also set up other long term gifts through stock, wills, bequests, annuities.

It's easy to find information if you click on the link on the "Giving Information" on our website or by contacting our church office. Thank you for your generous gifts!

Please Remember Your Pledge Card!

<p>My Stewardship Record for 2017</p> <p>God's Love in Action</p> <p>My commitment will be: • A one time gift of \$_____ (please enter one) • \$_____ per week • \$_____ per month • Annual gift approximate total \$_____</p>	<p>Pledge Card - 2017 Passanville Presbyterian Church</p> <p>In response to the gifts I receive from God, and as an expression of my faith and commitment to Christ and the church, I am pledging to my gift toward the ministry and mission of the church for 2017:</p> <p>My commitment will be: (please check one) • A one time gift of \$_____ (please enter one) • \$_____ per week • \$_____ per month • Annual gift approximate total \$_____</p> <p>• Did you know that you can give electronically? • Have you considered the church in your will? Please contact the church office if you have any questions.</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____ City/State: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____</p>
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Just in case you haven't already done so, remember to bring or mail in your stewardship pledge card. Additional cards are available in the church office and in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Church News

Social Justice Interns Support Fair Trade

As you all know Bryan is leaving and I will be taking over leadership of the Social Justice Interns. I have already met with the Interns to discuss our plans for the next few months.

They are excited to be doing something concrete by pledging to work with the Loaves and Fishes program. They are learning about food insecurity in the community and around the world. They are also interested in learning about and supporting fair trade practices.

We will be making gift bags of Equal Exchange products which will be for sale after worship. Stop by and pick up a hassle free Christmas present (or two). This is not meant to be a fund raiser; rather a promotion of awareness that we as consumers have the power to affect change through what we choose to purchase.

by Jane Wong

Help Decorate our Church!

We'll be meeting in the church foyer at 10am on Saturday, December 3rd to hang garlands and wreaths in the sanctuary and to set up the Christmas tree in the foyer. Please join us if you can.

Save the ASP Dates

Pleasantville

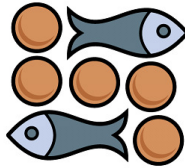
Appalachia Service Project

Sunday, January 29th
Shareholders' Dinner
6pm

Summer Mission Trip
July 15 - 23, 2017

What's New with Loaves and Fishes?

Feeding the Hungry with God's Love



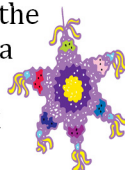
We are happy to report that the Loaves and Fishes program has successfully settled into a rhythm. Every other Friday we order approximately 450 pounds of food which comes in at about \$0.10 per pound. We have provided at least 3200+ meals. We appreciate the incredible amount of support from the congregation and would like to give a special shout out to Harry Lewis, Bryan and Jo Anna who pitch in for every delivery and to the many other current and future volunteers. The Social Justice Interns are also getting involved in helping the program run smoothly.

(cont'd on pg. 5)

Come to the Christmas Posada Party

Friday, December 16th - 7pm

The English and Spanish classes of our congregation invite you to join them at a "Posada" - to celebrate Christmas. The Posada is a traditional celebration from Mexico and Guatemala that reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for a room in Bethlehem. We will celebrate with a Potluck Dinner, piñata and music in the Campbell Room and invite you to come, join in the celebration and bring a dish to share. For more information talk with Barb Loizeaux.



Share Your Musical Gifts at Christmas Time

The Pleasantville Presbyterian Music Program needs YOU: To share your musical talents during the upcoming Christmas season. You are invited to sing or play a Christmas selection as a prelude to one of the services between December 4th and January 1st. Interested? Please call Dave Macdonald or talk to him after church.

Our Choir Presents Special Christmas Music

Don't miss the Christmas Music Service on December 18th. The Chancel Choir, with organist Evan Closser and a visiting string quartet, will celebrate our Savior's birth in song. They will sing selections from Handel's Messiah (including the Halleluia Chorus) along with carols from England and Germany. Come and listen!

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic schools and colleges. Please give generously this season.

Church News

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 December 4, 11, and 18. All are welcome! Please let Linda Berg or Pastor Debbie know if childcare is needed.

Loaves & Fishes

(cont'd from pg. 4)

Enrique Leon, the Pastor of the Spanish language Assemblies of God congregation, his wife Martha, and usually two other helpers, come to the church to pick up food every other Sunday. They are always appreciative and send many thanks to the congregation.

In addition, we have been supplying fruit every other week to some members of the church who attend an English class at their church on Wednesdays. They are also thrilled with your generosity.

Another group meets here at the church three evenings a week. We have been leaving them a bowl of fruit at each meeting and every bit of it is gone by the next morning. We have let them know that we are available to help anyone who food needs us.



Sunday, December 11th

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

Appalachia Christmas Project

THANK YOU to everyone who supported this year's Christmas for Appalachia project. Together we bought and shipped gifts for more than 75 children and their parents who otherwise couldn't afford presents.

Thanks, also, for being especially flexible: When the organization sent us many large families to shop for, you worked together in shopping teams to adopt each family. This project has been a church tradition for years and we appreciate your steadfast support!

Christmas Pageant and Advent Fair

Be sure to join us in worship on Sunday, December 11th, as we get into the Christmas spirit and hear the Christmas story told by our youngest disciples.

Immediately after the worship service, we invite everyone to join us for a craft-making extravaganza during coffee hour hosted by the Nemeec family.

Envelopes or E-giving? That is the Question

Envelopes for your weekly offering will be ordered for 2017 through the church office. If you wish to continue to make your contribution using the envelopes, please let Jo Anna know. You can do this by stopping by the church office, by email jativnan@pvillepresby.org, or by phone 914-769-0458.

An alternative option for your contributions can be found on our Church's secure e-giving web page. On-line payments are easy. After a quick registration process you will be able to make one-time or recurring weekly or monthly payments. You can sign on anytime to check your payment status, or to change your payment plan. You can get to the e-giving site by going to "Giving Information" found on the home page of our website: pvillepresby.org.

If you are already an e-giver, remember to change your weekly or monthly contributions to reflect this year's pledged amounts!



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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



Youth Council has big things planned!

After attempting to prevent Bryan's departure through coercion, bribery and force, your neighborhood friendly Youth Council sat down to work with Bryan on the future of the Youth Group program and can't wait to tell you about it!

We also need your help going forward! Right now, your Youth Council is composed of JoAnne Gullotta (chair), Linda Berg, Rich and Jeannine Tocco, Susana Corona, Barb Kelly, Pastor Debbie (ex officio), and youth members Logan and Manny. If you want to join the youth council or volunteer to help chaperone either our Middle or High School youth programs, bring a meal to youth group, or drive on an outing, talk to JoAnne.

Triumphant Return of the Youth Group Winter Retreat and Ski Trip!

We want to kick January off with a bang and so we are bringing back the Martin Luther King Day Youth Retreat and Ski Trip! This year we are offering two tracks - come skiing then to Camp Jewell for the overnight, or skip the skiing and just join us at Camp Jewell for tubing, games, and fun! This trip is open to all Middle and High School youth and we need lots of parent driver/chaperones, talk to JoAnne if you are interested! Registration is due by Sunday, December 18. Scholarships available.

Saturday, Dec 3

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

Sunday, Dec 4

Mission Night – we will be making stockings for Neighbor's Link families to be distributed at their Christmas dinner!

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

Sunday, Dec 11

Parent's Night Out – help us make this intergenerational fundraiser a huge success!

This fundraiser is open to everyone, 3 years old and older, we are asking a \$30 per child (max \$50 per family). RSVP to Bryan by December 4.

All Youth: 3:45 - 8:15pm

Sunday, Dec 18

Farewell Gathering – join us after worship at 11am for a farewell gathering as we wish Bryan well!




Church-Wide Caroling – Everyone is invited to join the youth group caroling down Sunnyside Ave.

Everyone: 4:00pm

Saturday, Dec 24

Christmas Eve: 7pm and 11pm

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	3 5pm Jazz Vespers
4 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Mission Meeting 11:30am Adult Ed. "Advent Series" 4pm Jr. High Youth Grp. 6pm Sr. High Youth Grp.	5 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	6 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	7 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	8	9 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	10 5:30pm Set-up for Advent Fair
11 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 10am Advent Pageant 11am Advent Craft Fair 4pm Youth Grp. - Parent's Night Out 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	13 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	14 7:30pm Session Mtg.	15 7:30pm "Navigating Transitions"	16 6pm Posada - FH 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	17 4pm Set-up for Pot-luck lunch
18 Choir Cantata 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Congregational Meeting 11am Farewell to Bryan - Pot- luck lunch 4pm Jr. & Sr. High - Caroling	19 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	20 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	21 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	22 8:30am GBPS Christmas Party	23 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	24  <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7pm Family Worship Svc. 11pm Candlelight Worship Svc.
25  8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery	26 6pm English Lessons Library - call ahead 426- 0886	27 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	28	29	30 6pm Spanish Lessons - 104 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	31 

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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www.PvillePresby.org

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Church News

Come Join the Youth Council

You are invited to join the Youth Council for lunch on December 4th, right after worship, to hear how YOU can help contribute to the success of our youth programs in the coming year!

There are several people who have stepped up to the plate to help fill Bryan's shoes (in the short run) however, there are many ways that you might contribute your talent and/or your time.

Thanksgiving Food Drive a Huge Success

Sharing God's bounty, spreading hope

The response to this year's food drive was even greater than last year! Approximately 85 bags, filled to the brim with non-perishable foods, were donated. This is 15 bags more and at least 100 items more than we collected last year. Thanks to the generosity of our church community, the hungry who depend on the Interfaith Food Pantry and the 200 boys residing at the Children's Village and their families will have a happier Thanksgiving.

Many thanks to all for your generous contributions! Thanks to Gary Dieckman for making the stencil of our church logo for the shopping bags, and to Bryan Bardin and Jane Wong for painting the logo on the bags; thanks to Jane Wong and the Social Justice Interns for counting and organizing the bags; thanks to Victor Corona and Linda Berg for delivering the food to Children's Village; and many thanks to the Mission Team, Bryan, and Pastor Debbie for their endless support.

