



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Christmas Pageant and Craft Fair

Sunday, December 11th



Farewell to Bryan

On December 18th, the church family said farewell to Bryan Bardin and celebrated his 6 years as our Youth and Christian Education Director. The celebration included a pot luck lunch and a wonderful song performed by the Bell Choir. To see videos, go to the church's YouTube page. For more, see page 3 and the back page.



Presbyterian Women to Offer Free Concert

Sunday afternoon, January 22nd, will be a special time of music and talk featuring Karen Snowberg in a recorder concert. Karen will bring recorder musicians from her quartet, from Westchester Recorder Guild, and from Karen's Consort (her students) to introduce the full range of recorders to us, to play for and entertain all comers.



Karen is nationally and internationally known and respected as performer and teacher of recorders. She is enthusiastic and joyous in these pursuits. Her love of music and the world of recorders, her passion for music, draws listeners to immediate response to her warmth. Music is her life and her love.

(cont'd on pg.

JAZZ
vespers

Saturday
January 7th
at 5pm

Pastor Debbie on Bryan's Farewell and the Year Ahead

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we start this new year, I want to begin by saying thank you. Thank you to all of you for the ways you helped to send Bryan Bardin off with such love and grace. This congregation does an amazing job at letting people know they are loved and valued, and the outpouring to Bryan of laughs, of gifts and of memories was wonderful to see. Please keep him in your prayers as he discerns the next steps in his journey.

As we move into 2017, we have lots of challenges and opportunities. It's been really encouraging to see people come forward to work with children and youth, and technology too. Please keep our ministries in your prayers as we open ourselves to the next chapter in our church's journey.

Change is always hard, but learning and growing often comes through change. I know I am already experiencing new opportunities to grow and learn! I'm excited to see what's next!

May we listen for the guidance of God's Spirit in this new year.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Dedicate Flowers in 2017

If you would like to dedicate the flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart which is on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Then, just make sure to write a check for \$50 and mark it "Flower Fund". This is a wonderful way to honor or remember a friend or family member or commemorate a special day in the life of your family.



Sermons on the Web
pvillepresby.org/sermons

Check out the Church's YouTube Channel

Go to YouTube and search for
PvillePresby



Save the Dates

<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Jan 7
<i>Youth Group Ski Trip</i>	Jan 14,15
<i>Navigating</i>	Jan 20
<i>Transitions Group</i>	
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Jan 22
<i>PW Recorder Concert</i>	Jan 22
<i>ASP Shareholders' Dinner</i>	Jan 29
<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Feb 4
<i>Children's' Sunday</i>	Feb 5
<i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i>	Feb 5

Come to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 22nd

Come to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on Sunday, January 22nd.

- You can hear about the committees and organizations of the church and read the 2016 Annual Report.
- The 2017 budget will be presented and the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

It's a great way to find out what's going on in the congregation and learn how God is leading us. You can ask questions about programs, finances and get an idea of what's ahead. All are invited!



Church News

Want to Know More About Church Membership?

If you have thought about becoming a member of the church, but have questions, please feel free to talk with Pastor Debbie or Barb Loizeaux. We also have printed information that we can give you about membership and what it means to be a Presbyterian..

Spanish Class Moves to Thursdays

Beginning in January, our Spanish class with Susana Corona will move to Thursday evenings 6-8pm. If you are interested in joining this group to learn Spanish and have fun, feel free to stop by. For more information, talk with Susana.

Recorder Concert

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Her program promises lively and lovely music, some sing-alongs, some surprises, some new ideas. Those little plastic recorders from elementary school are just the beginning.

The program is sponsored by Presbyterian Women (PW) for the pleasure of the congregation and friends. It begins at 3 pm in our sanctuary and should end about 5. It is open to all at no cost except for a free-will offering. Even the cookies are free.

Come. Enjoy. Accept this gift from PW.



Pre-School

Registration Begins

Great Beginnings, our church's pre-school, is currently registering 2½, 3, and 4 year olds for September 2017. Spread the word. Not only is this a great program for the little ones, it is also a great way to introduce families to our church because church families receive a tuition discount.

Brochures and registration forms are available on the blue bookshelf in the CE wing or for more information talk with Ruth Fischer or go to www.great-beginnings.org.



Come Ring in the New Year

The Bell Choir is starting up again in January. We are looking for new ringers to join us. If you are interested, talk with Cathy Fellows.

Boy Scout Troop 12 News

J. Paul Watts received his Eagle award last month. He is 1 of 4 scouts from our church-sponsored Troop 12 who earned this rank in 2016. We are especially grateful to Paul as he chose to construct our sidewalk railing for his project. Congratulations! We also thank all the scouts in the troop who participated in a major fall clean-up of our property.

Stewardship: God's Love in Action



In this beautiful New Year of opportunity, filled with hopefulness and expectation, let us all remember to be **God's Love in Action**. We are called to be the people to bring God's grace into the empty places we find in our homes, our communities and our world; to be the one who says "yes" when we are asked, and to act with inspiration fed by God's love. Plan to make a difference in someone's life in 2017.

Your gifts and pledges will do just that too, and we are grateful for all the gifts and pledges promised for the coming year. Thank you.

Stay tuned to hear more about the success of our 2016 Stewardship Season in our Annual Report later this month.

Remember to Make Your Stewardship Pledge

It's not too late to make a pledge for 2017! You can find pledge cards in the church office, or in the back of the sanctuary.

Want to give **electronically**? You can either go to our church website, click on "Contribute" and set up a profile, or...if you don't like computers, talk with Jo Anna in the church office. And if you have changed your pledge amount for 2017, *remember to update your new amounts on the website.* Thank you!

Sunday School & Christian Ed News

Children's Sunday

February 5th

Our Sunday School classes will be leading worship on February 5th to bring out the God-colors in the world. We hope to see you in worship to be a part of this special service. If you would like to be involved in planning, teaching, or leading part of this fun and inventive worship service, talk to Kathy Brown or Linda Berg.

Come on the

Youth Group Ski Trip

The Youth Retreat and Ski Trip is back! The trip is planned for January 14-15th and open to all Middle and High School youth and we welcome parent drivers/chaperones.

Hope you got your registration in. Talk to JoAnne Gullotta with questions!



We are forming a Confirmation Class this spring for all interested 8th and 9th graders. If you want to learn more about our church's confirmation program, please contact Pastor Debbie.

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 5th



As the weather has turned cold outside, nothing warms the soul like a steaming bowl of soup and yet, there are people in our own community who go to bed hungry. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, our youth are taking part in the national movement, "Souper Bowl of Caring." So, as you are stocking up for your Super Bowl party...

- buy an extra can of food and bring it to worship to be donated to the Loaves and Fishes Program or
- donate money to our church's Souper Bowl collection which will be used for our church's ongoing effort to feed hungry people in Pleasantville.

Sunday School Teachers Needed for 2017!

We need your joy, we need your life experiences, we need YOU! Teaching Sunday School is a fun and rewarding way to be more engaged with your faith, with our church, and with our kids.

Become a Sunday School teacher in three easy steps...

1. Sign up with Kathy Brown.
2. Pick up your teaching packet from the office (containing all the supplies, crafts, books and everything you need to teach your lesson).
3. Enjoy the connection you are creating with our kids and with God!

Are you concerned that you have never done this before? Don't worry! Each lesson has a leader's guide that outlines the story, walks you through different conversation topics, and suggests activities to help keep the kids engaged. There is also a cartoon video that makes the story come alive.

Whether you are a seasoned teacher or a complete novice, talk to Kathy Brown to find out more about how you can make a difference in the life of our community by teaching Sunday School!

Navigating Transitions Discussion Group Continues

January 20th

We are continuing our monthly discussions on life transitions - moving to Friday night. The group is an open forum to share our experiences of transitions and provide support, encouragement, and inspiration to each other. Join us on Friday January 20th 7:30-9pm in the Campbell Room. Interested in hearing more? Please speak with Linda Berg or Jane Wong.

Church-Wide Christmas Caroling

Did you hear the singing and wonder what was happening? Youth group members and families - more than twenty-five people - joined together on December 18th to go caroling at houses in the Sunnyside Avenue neighborhood. A big thank you to Jane and Pono for hosting the much needed hot cocoa and cookies back at the church. And a shout-out to those willing to keep the songs going with the lip-sync fun afterward!



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Sunday, Jan 1st

Happy New Year! No PYC
Enjoy time with your family – and catch up on your sleep!

Saturday, Jan 7th

Jazz Vespers — 5:00 pm

Come experience the presence of God at this jazz music service. All are welcome – invite a friend!

Sunday, Jan 8th

Improv Night at Youth Group

Get ready to get creative! Come and enjoy an evening of Improv! Dinner will be provided.

Middle School — 5:00 - 7:00 pm

High School — 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sat. Jan 14 – Sun. Jan 15

Winter Retreat and Ski Trip

Registration forms are past due! Talk to Jo Anne if interested.

No Sunday night PYC

Sunday, Jan 22nd

Study Break — Take a break to relax with games and friends. Dinner will be provided.

High School — 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, Jan 29th

ASP Dinner — 6:00 pm

All are welcome, bring your family and friends to find out more about this fabulous service trip!

Everyone — 6:00 pm



Looking forward to 2017!

We look back with love and joy on 2016 – a year of fun: games, cooking, baking, movie night, pumpkin picking, mission projects, Rockin' Jump, Christmas caroling and lip sync! And did we mention the food?!

After saying our farewells to Bryan – and continuing to send our love as he follows our journeys from the warmth of Florida – we look forward to spending time together in 2017 on *faith, fun, fellowship and friends with a heaping serving of mission mixed in.*

Please contact Logan Bronkema, Manny Corona, Jo Anne Gulotta, Linda Berg, Jane Wong, or Kat Nemec with your suggestions and ideas for upcoming events!

Super Bowl Party next month – Feb. 5th

Mark your calendars and join us for the big event – watch the Super Bowl (or not) and the commercials (how could you not?!), munch on snacks and goodies, and enjoy the fun at the Corona's.

More information coming next month. Remember to bring a can or two to support the *Souper Bowl of Caring!*

january



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery	2	3 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	4 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	5 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	6 English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	7 5pm Jazz Vespers
8 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Jr. High Youth Grp. 6pm Sr. High Youth Grp. 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9	10 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	11 7:30pm Session Mtg.	12 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	13 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	14 Youth Grp. Ski Trip
15 Youth Grp. Ski Trip 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery	16 Martin Luther King Day	17 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	18 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	19 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	20 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	21
22 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Annual Mtg. of the Congregation 3pm PW Recorder Concert 6pm Sr. High Youth Grp.	23	24 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	25 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	26 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	27 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	28
29 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Mtg. 6pm ASP Shareholder's Dinner	30	31 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp				



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

400 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, New York 10570

914-769-0458
Info@PvillePresby.org
www.PvillePresby.org

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Church News



ASP Dinner and Applications

The Pleasantville Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Shareholders Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, January 29th at 6pm. This dinner is our way of thanking those who supported this mission last year (our "shareholders") and welcoming those who are interested in volunteering in 2017.

As a reminder to volunteers who are interested in participating in 2017, the dates for the Pleasantville ASP home repair mission trip to West Virginia are July 15-23, 2017. Interested volunteers who have not yet received an application should send a request to Gail Zarick at ghzarick@gmail.com. Applications to participate in the Pleasantville ASP 2017 mission are due at the Shareholders Dinner on January 29th.



A gathering of some of our college kids to celebrate Bryan's ministry with us



Bell Choir sings "So Long, Farewell" to Bryan