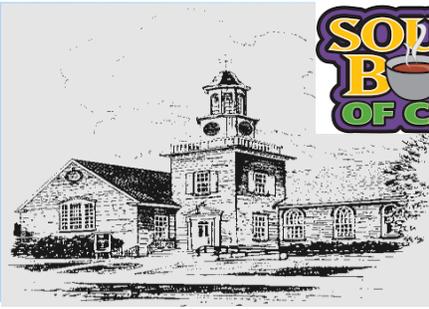


TOWER CHIMES



2018

Welcome to the
monthly newsletter
of

Community Presbyterian Church

2101 William Place
Merrick, NY, 11566
516 – 378 – 7761

E-Mail

cpcmerrick
@optonline.net

Website

www.cpcmerrick.org

Thomas Rose
Pres. and Treasurer
Trose1@optonline.net

Gary Stuber
Clerk of Session
Stubonline@aol.com

Nancy Stuber
Financial Secretary
Callie921@aol.com



Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick

CLERK'S CORNER

We Are a Connectional Church

Every year, we're reminded of the fact that our Presbyterian denomination is a connectional faith. You see it in our requests for payment of our Per Capita, which is paid forward to the Presbytery, to the Synod, and eventually to the General Assembly to fund programs which benefit the greater community.

I also saw the connectional church in action at last weekend's Presbytery Meeting in Bridgehampton. As often is the case at January meetings, there was a year in review of all the efforts of our Presbytery and its 55 churches on LI.

For example, our Presbytery sent a team to El Salvador for a project to provide clean water. The lack of clean water in the area for many of its migrant inhabitants has resulted in illness and in death, particularly for its youth. The team had a solution using rain water which was also portable. During the visit, the team established a number of these cisterns, and with our help, has since sent additional funds for an expansion of the program.

One further example – despite what is thought to be seen as a shrinking presence here on Long Island, the Presbytery has helped fund new church development initiatives.

Finally, the Presbytery has been working with our church, and with many others on LI, to address their pastoral needs. We are not the only church without a more permanent pastoral solution. In fact, of the 55 churches comprising the Presbytery of LI, possibly half of them are dealing with pastoral issues. The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry has been working non-stop to address this issue so as to establish more permanent pastoral relationships at its churches. Thank you!

Yes, we are a connectional church. Together, we accomplish more. With hopefully, much more to come.

Blessings,
Gary

In This Issue

- Clerk's Corner
- 2018 Per Capita
- Jan. 28 Ord. & Install.
Ceremony and Deacon
Assignments
- PDA Relief Donations
- Join our Voice and Handbell
Choirs!
- Interesting February Fact
- Do You Like To Shop?
- February Happenings
 - Birthdays
 - Souper Bowl of Caring
 - Transfiguration of the Lord
 - Easter Choir volunteers
 - Women's Fellowship
Breakfast
 - Ash Wednesday and
Shared Lenten Season
 - March Tower Chimes Due
Date
 - February Calendar



Happy Birthday prayers to Lily Williams on her January 10th birthday;
For co-worker Bill Witteck – may he beat the horrible disease, cancer;

For world peace;
For all those suffering from addiction;
For all loved ones who are not here with us;
“For my family and for world peace”;
For Laura to have the courage and to know if moving to be closer to her ex-husband is the correct choice for their 14-year old son, Brian;
For 14-year old Brian to make better choices and to be respectful and to stop cussing;
“Please, pray for unspoken requests”;
“My new friend, Melissa. May she find her way back to peace in her heart. Love Michelle M;
Healing of James from cancer.
Students at PS152.
A quick recovery from heart surgery for Chenaya.
Jill Krieg as she started a new job last week. (M.J.Gould)
Carol Murphy – hip surgery;
“My friend Karen’s 30-year old daughter who was just diagnosed with a brain tumor. She had surgery on Friday and is awaiting results;
Please pray for Corrine & her husband & 4-month old daughter. (N. Stuber);
A security guard where Jamie works. He slipped on ice and broke his ankle, femur, hip, 3 ribs, shoulder and fractured his skull;
All who are being affected by the shut- down in Washington;
Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis for a year of birthday wishes. – Love, Al
Edna who is in the hospital;
Desi who is in the hospital;
The safety and well-being of grandchildren Logan and Olivia (Pat & Vinny Lofaro)
Angelica, a premature baby weighting only 3 lbs. 8 oz. (friend of Anne Reynolds)
Lily, may she recover from the bronchitis that has refused to go away. (Joe)

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT FOR 2018

As mentioned in last month’s Tower Chimes, CPC pays PC(USA) on your behalf for being a Presbyterian member. Please help offset CPC’s apportionment expense by writing a check in the amount of **\$36.78** made payable to *Community Presbyterian Church*. Thank you.

AND A FRIENDLY REMINDER to please share your joys and concerns (and birthdays) with one of our deacons or Barbara in the office. HELPING HANDS loves nothing more than to reach out and let you know we share in your joys as well as in your heartaches. We’re here for you, but you must let us know! Diane can be reached at 516-623-9495.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION AND ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On January 28, Rev. Marjorie Roth helped us out by presiding over our Congregational meeting and Ordination & Installation of officers. We thank Rev. Roth for her assistance.

We welcome and thank our newest members of our Session and Board of Deacons!

Below please find the 2018 Deacon assignments:

Jessie Gregorio – Memorial Fund and Treasurer

Ramona Grimm – Moderator and Secretary

Rich Kelly – Helping Hands Visitations

Mary Leschinski – Flowers

Diane Wood – Helping Hands Correspondence

Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis – Communion and Ushers

And ALL our deacons are sharing the TRANSPORTATION assignment. You can call any one of our deacons if you need a ride to or from church or a doctor’s office. They will do their best in arranging transportation for you. (Please give them as much advance notice as possible!)

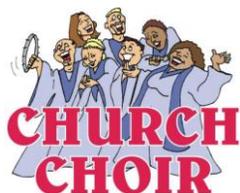
Our 2018 Session is still working on setting up their commission assignments, and we will make them known to you as soon as they are finalized.



2017 DONATIONS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND AND PRESBYTERY DISASTER RELIEF

We thought you’d like to know that the Presbytery of LI gave \$50,675.65 to the PC(USA) for Disaster Relief and \$47,941.65 was donated to the two hurricane funds (Atlantic and US). Your donation dollars ARE at work! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**Why Join Our CPC Choir
and/or Our CPC
Handbell Choir?**



Quite often we invite you to join our CPC Choir and Handbell Choir, but why? Here are a few reasons to join our church choirs:

Gain another family! You will build lasting relationships with other members of choir. There is a camaraderie that we have as well as love and caring for each other. We laugh. We laugh at ourselves, at each other, and generally have a happy, uplifting time together.

You will receive intellectual stimulation. Making music uses both sides of your brain simultaneously. It is also an ideal way to relax and relieve stress!

There are educational benefits. You will learn so much about music including note-reading, elements of music, as well as teamwork and cooperation.

Choir contributes to the understanding of God and the experience of worship.

Choir focuses on doing rather than observing.

Singing/ringing in choir praises God with "body, mind, spirit and voice". Singing/ringing in choir is really a gift that will last a lifetime! A wonderful opportunity awaits you!

And if ringing handbells "appeals" to you, it is **only a 7-week commitment.** We will begin rehearsing for Easter Sunday on Sunday, February 11 and finish on Easter Sunday, April 1.

If you would like to sing in Choir, please join us on Sundays at 9:00AM in the sanctuary. Regular rehearsals are at 9:00AM Sunday mornings in the sanctuary and after coffee hour in the choir room for approximately an hour. If you can only sing a few Sundays in the month, we welcome you. If you can only sing at Easter, we welcome you. If you are a beginning singer, we welcome you. In other words, all are welcome no matter what the circumstances! Join us so that we all can, "make a joyful noise unto the Lord"!

Cathy Donohue

INTERESTING FEBRUARY FACT:

The word February was derived from the word "februa," which translates to purification and cleansing, adapted from the Roman "Festival of Purification," a pre-Spring ritual. "Februo" literally means "I purify by sacrifice."

DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?



You know, shopping at Amazon on-line isn't just a 'Christmas' thing! You can do it all year long with CPC benefitting from your every purchase!

Amazon, an amazing charitable company, has teamed up with charitable organizations across the nation. They will donate .5% of eligible purchases back to charitable organizations. **Community Presbyterian Church is now a member of this program.**

The way it works is simple. First, you log onto Amazon as usual. Then you lookup **AmazonSmile** and choose Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick as your charity. This is a one-time registration and Amazon will save your information so that in the future any purchases you make will automatically go to CPC as your preferred charity. Then Happy Shopping!

Please spread the word to family and friends. Then ask them to spread the word to their family and friends. It's that simple. Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Yours truly,
in faith (and shopping) Nancy Stuber*

EASTER CHOIR VOLUNTEERS



We will be starting to rehearse music for Easter

Sunday in the next few weeks. Easter is early this year, April 1! Please join us so that our Easter Choir will have lots of happy new faces.

Also, our **Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, February 11.** We will be ringing on Easter Sunday, April 1. We will rehearse right after coffee hour on Sundays.

You have two opportunities to serve the Lord with gladness and song.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The next Women's Fellowship breakfast will be here at CPC on Saturday, **February 17 at**

10am in Grafing Hall. Please join us for light refreshments, prayer, praise, and a good time! Be sure to bring a friend! If you have ANY questions, please call Fran Kelly at 221-3561.

February 14 is Ash Wednesday, and Lent begins on February 18!



Everything is early this year, and Ash Wednesday is only a few weeks away. "Ash Wednesday is a day of solemn assembly that is built right into

the church year. It is a fast day, a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a recognition of our mortality save for the grace of God and a request that the Lord remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more."

Here's an interesting read about ASH

WEDNESDAY, edited from an article in The Presbyterian Outlook by Leslie Scanlon)

Ash Wednesday:

What do Presbyterians do?

More and more, Presbyterian churches are beginning to embrace the rituals of Ash Wednesday, and to give serious thought to the meaning of Lent.

For Presbyterians, "it's probably in the past 20 years that we've begun to kind of recover Ash Wednesday as part of our worship life," said Paul Galbreath, an associate for worship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s national staff. Before that, "it was perceived as Roman Catholic, and was something that good Presbyterians didn't do. Not that we really knew what it was — it was just foreign to our culture."

But what has made congregations more accepting of Ash Wednesday rituals has been a broader reassessing of the liturgical traditions and teachings related to Holy Week, the days right before Easter, and to the preceding weeks of Lent, Galbreath said. Congregations focused on Lent talk of preparation and spiritual discipline, mirroring Jesus' 40 days of prayer and temptation in the desert before he was killed.

To some, Lent means "giving something up" — maybe chocolate or television or beer. But Galbreath encourages Presbyterians to take something on — to commit themselves to doing something that will deepen their faith during Lent, be it daily Scripture reading, working in a homeless shelter, or cutting back their own spending so they can give more to help others.

"Lent offers so much," said McFeaters, who's come to see it as "a season of absolute necessity in my own life of faith." For her, "Lent lays a road that takes us from some of the dreary places in our life of faith to the joy of Easter, and all the places in between." She uses it to reconsider her baptismal identity on this road home, and thinks of it as a time not just "to drag ourselves through the ashes," but also "an opportunity to pick up this gift that God has laid before us," to meet a God of mercy and open arms.

Galbreath also sees value in focusing on Ash Wednesday on the certainty of death — as is said in some congregations as the ashes are imposed, "From dust you come and to dust you shall return."

"Death is a part of life — we're finite," he said. "Ash Wednesday is the one time of year the

church is really honest about that. We don't live forever, so the choices we make and the things we do are important, because we're only here for a short time

This year particularly, with the hurricanes, fires, mud slides, terrorism, floods, shootings, and other tragedies, people are aware that death can come in an instant — they're feeling the pain of the world. "Maybe Ash Wednesday especially this year is a way to talk about grief, not denying it or rushing to resurrection, but really holding death and resurrection in tension," Galbreath said. "It's really powerful to do that in community."

As McFeaters considers the hurricanes and floods, and the deaths from rain and mudslides in California, she has thought: "The water drowns us in baptism. We go into baptismal waters and die." For Christians, the waters of death are also "this womb of rebirth and these arms that are waiting for us."

Food for thought, eh?

AND AS WE ALL KNOW, ASH WEDNESDAY STARTS OFF OUR 40 DAYS OF LENT!

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)



Please join us for
"Acting Out Matthew's Message,
a shared, ecumenical
Wednesday and Good Friday evening
Lenten experience.

The series will run from February 14 — March 30!

WE WILL AGAIN BE SHARING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY with Bellmore Methodist, Bellmore Presbyterian, Merrick Methodist and Seaford Methodist churches. Join us on Wednesday nights as we reflect upon the truths hidden within Matthew's parables while recognizing the

careful balance between Old Testament law and the new message of Jesus.

Here's the schedule:

Wed., February 14 - Ash Wednesday: An evening ecumenical Ash Wednesday worship service will take place at 7:30pm @ Seaford United Methodist Church, 2160 Washington Ave., 785-8877.

Wed., February 21: FAMILY NIGHT* @ Merrick United Methodist Church, 1425 Merrick Ave., 378-9222. *Family night begins at 6:30pm with a light supper. At 7:30pm there will be an adult program as well as a separate children's program. Dessert will be served after both programs.

Wed., February 28: @ Bellmore United Methodist Church, 2657 Clarendon Ave., 221-1220. There will be a 7:30pm program followed by dessert at 8:30pm.

Wed., March 7: FAMILY NIGHT* @ Bellmore Presbyterian Church, 2740 Martin Ave., 785-2590. *Family night begins at 6:30pm with a light supper. At 7:30pm there will be an adult program as well as a separate children's program. Dessert will be served after both programs.

Wed., March 14: @ Merrick United Methodist Church, 1425 Merrick Ave., 378-9222. There will be a 7:30pm program followed by dessert at 8:30pm.

Wed., March 21: FAMILY NIGHT* @ Seaford United Methodist Church, 2160 Washington Ave., 785-8877. *Family night begins at 6:30pm with a light supper. At 7:30pm there will be an adult program as well as a separate children's program. Dessert will be served after both programs.

Thurs., March 29 is Maundy Thursday, and each church will hold its own Tenebrae Service.

Friday, March 30 - Good Friday: An evening ecumenical Good Friday worship service will take place at 7:30pm @ Bellmore United Methodist Church, 2657 Clarendon Ave., 221-1220.

Any articles for the Tower Chimes are due into the office by the 15th of the prior month, so all articles for the March edition are due into the office by February 15. Thank you!

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesda	Wednesday	Thursd	Friday	Saturday
				1 NA 7:30-9:30p	2  AA 6:45-9:30p	3 Setup Grafiing Hall for Sunday's special coffee hour
4 10am Worship Service; Pastor Finck in the pulpit; Communion (Scott Dodge, Jessie Gregorio, Charles & Mary Leschinski); CHILDREN WILL WORSHIP WITH THE FAMILIES IN THE SANCTUARY ; Usher Team #4 (Janel Crummy, Jessie Gregorio, Tom Rose and Joe Schuessler); Kick-Off of our month-long SOUPERBOWL OF CARING food and \$ drive; Special Coffee Hour ; NASC 1-6pm	5 OPA 7-10pm	6 AA 7:30-9:30p	7 7PM Session MEETING at CPC	8 NA 7:30-9:30p	9 AA 6:45-9:30p	10 Setup of Grafiing Hall for tomorrow's Coffee Hour
11 Transfiguration of the Lord 10am Worship Service; Rev. Finck in the pulpit; Usher Team #5 (Joe Arcuri, Rich Kelly, Pat Lofaro and Vinny Lofaro); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Coffee Hour 	12 OPA 7-10pm	13 AA 7:30-9:30p	14  ASH WEDNESDAY 7:30pm joint ecumenical service @ Seaford Methodist Church	15 March Tower Chimes articles due NA 7:30-9:30p	16 6:45-9:30p	17 10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast in Grafiing Hall
18 1st Sunday in Lent 10a Worship; Rev. Finck in the pulpit; Usher Team #1 (Pat Dubovick, Charlie Leschinski, Nancy Stuber & George Weeks); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Refreshments 	19 OPA 7-10pm	20 AA 7:30-9:30p	21 JOINT LENTEN EXP. Family Night 6:30 pm light supper, then 7:30pm joint Lenten programs @ Merrick United Methodist Church; 8:30pm dessert	22 NA 7:30-9:30p	23 AA 6:45-9:30p	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 10am Worship; Rev. Finck in the pulpit; Usher Team #2 (Scott Dodge, Fran Kelly, Alfred Lewis and Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Refreshments ; LAST DAY OF COLLECTION FOR SOUPERBOWL OF CARING 	26 OPA 7-10pm	27 AA 7:30-9:30p	28 JOINT LENTEN EXP. 7:30pm joint Lenten program @ Bellmore United Methodist Church 8:30 dessert	Mar. 1 NA 7:30-9:30p	Mar. 2 AA 6:45-9:30p	