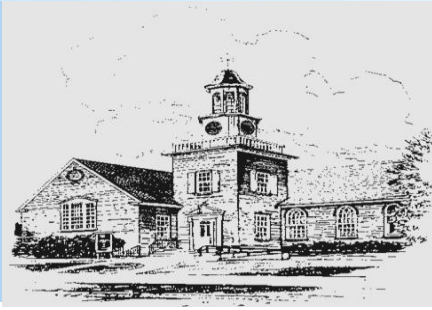


TOWER CHIMES



Welcome to the
monthly newsletter
of
**Community
Presbyterian
Church**

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Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick



playground. It's a family of four, even though the picture only shows two.

Maybe these young birds are a sign of 'new life' here at CPC!

From Ezekiel 17:22,23 --

I will plant a shoot of a lofty cedar, and it shall lift up a branch, and shall bear fruit, and be a magnificent cedar; and under it shall dwell every fowl of every wing, in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell.

EVEN THE BIRDS COME TO CPC!

Apparently this young Yellow-Crowned Night Heron is finding CPC safe and welcoming as is the family of Mourning Doves.

The heron's nest is in the big tree out front, and mom and dad are always keeping an eye on their young one. This Mourning Dove nest is in a bush next to the brick steps on the side of the

In This Issue

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-For 7-year old Cooper who is recovering from another heart surgery (Joe and Ginny A.)
-For Karyn who is facing a heart operation in early May (Barb R.)

-For the 90,000 Christians and the members of all faiths who have lost their lives in the last year because of their beliefs.

-For all those unnamed who need God's strength

-A prayer of Good Luck for our friend, Gerry, who had the first full production of one of his plays. (Nancy and Gary S.)

-A Thanksgiving prayer for my daughter, Meg, who is in remission. We thank you all for your prayers during her ordeal. (Jo G.)

-For Margie and her family as her husband is in the hospital for cancer treatment.

-For Karen who will have open heart surgery to repair or replace a faulty valve. She sends huge thanks for the card she received and the prayers (David B.)

-For the family of Tyrone Williams is very grateful for all the prayers. He is now in a nursing home and adjusting nicely to his new situation. (Mary Jane G.)

-For Adam Cordova who was diagnosed with a brain tumor and will be undergoing brain surgery. He is only 28. (Nancy and Gary S.)

-For the Fanari family on the loss of their mom.

-For Adria who is recovering from surgery. Her biopsy was negative, and she is very grateful for the prayers and card.

-For my sister, Pat, who is very ill in the hospital in England. (Jo G.)

-For Elizabeth Walker in her continuous battle with lung cancer (Diane W.)

-For the family and friends of Carrie Hamilton (visitor from Georgia) who's grandmother passed away last month. Carrie thanks us for warmly welcoming her to our worship service last month.

-For Mary Dunn who is suffering from lung cancer (Charlie L.)

-For Steve Evans who passed away the end of April (Charlie L.)

-For Nancy Stuber's friend, Lauren, whose brother passed away.

-For Jamie Brackett who is scheduled for an MRI. (David B.)



Bellmore Presbyterian Church has generously invited us to participate in their **weekly Bible Study and Prayer**

Gathering on Thursdays at 1pm in their Parlor. Amy Plympton Fortunato is leading this group, and she may be reached at 631.617.9335 if you have any questions.

WHERE, O WHERE, IS THE FREEPORT EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY?

As mentioned in last month's Tower Chimes, the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry has moved to 230 Hanse Ave. in South Freeport. However, finding the Pantry is not so easy as it is now in an industrial area and the buildings are not well-marked, if at all!

Below are more precise written directions to help us find the Pantry:

Start out on Merrick Road heading west.

Cross over the Meadowbrook Parkway bridge. At the intersection light, bear left onto Mill Road, which is the road BJ's is on.

Hanse Avenue will be the second street on your left.

Make a left on Hanse Avenue and head south until you see a sign for #210 Hanse, which is a company called AHRC.

Pass #210 Hanse and then make a right behind that warehouse.

*The road then bears left, and the **FIRST DOOR ON THE LEFT BEHIND THE WAREHOUSE IS THE PANTRY, #230.***

The door is not marked. Hopefully signs will be up shortly!

Hope you're enjoying your new digs, Wally!

OODLES OF THANKS TO GO AROUND DURING OUR HOLY SEASON

- Thanks to EVERYONE who participated in the **JOINT LENTEN PROGRAM** this year. We thought it was a nice mix of learning opportunities generated by the participating churches. Special thanks to those of you who helped pull off our evening's program: Cathy Donohue and our choir of Karen Bard, Jo Gencorelli, Kristen Jacobsen, Lily Kelman-

Nelson, Amanda Pitt, and Gary Stuber; our soloist Brian Donohue; our lay leader Mary Leschinski; our song narrator Gary Stuber; our fellowship helping hands Fran Kelly, Mona Grimm, Jessie Gregorio, and Mary Jane Gould; our discussion leaders Rev. Steven Knutsen (Seaford UMC), Rev. Elon Sylvester (Bellmore UMC), Elder James Vliet (First Presbyterian Church-Freeport), and Rev. Ralph Wright; our scripture reader Kathy Vliet (First Presbyterian Church Freeport); and especially to Rev. Ralph Wright, who took the initiative in the plotting and planning of this evening's service and saw it through to the very end on March 15. Thank you Rev. Wright from the bottom of our hearts!

- Thanks to our season of **LENTEN CANDLE EXTINGUISHERS**: Mary, Charles and Charlie Leschinski; Gary and Nancy Stuber, Pat and Vinny Lofaro, Cathy and Brian Donohue, Karen and Alex Bard and the team of Jessie Gregorio and Mona Grimm. (The Lenten candle extinguishing was an idea from Rev. Wright, who had seen it performed before and thought it would add a nice touch to our Lenten season.)

-It was so exciting to have CPC's first ever **Youth Handbell Choir** perform at the **PALM SUNDAY SERVICE** on April 9! Thank you to Milan Alexander, Missy Bello, Charlie Leschinski and Lily Williams. We greatly missed Jia Bello as she had another commitment. I appreciate our other Sunday School teacher, Mary Jane Gould, looking after the other kids while we rehearsed our music. A special thank you to Cathy Donohue for the use of her handbells and her contribution of musical repertoire

We will all look forward to another performance on Sunday, June 18 (Father's Day and Recognition Sunday). Rehearsals will continue 11:00-11:30 after Sunday School until then. "I will rejoice in doing them good, and I

will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul." Jeremiah 32:41

~Lily Kelman-Nelson

With more Palm Sunday thanks to Brian Donohue who sang a beautiful solo; and to Fran Kelly for preparing the palms.

-Thanks to our **DEACONS**, Jessie Gregorio, Mon Grimm, Rich Kelly, Mary Leschinski and Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis, who, on April 10 hopped their way to several homebound members and friends of CPC spreading Easter joy by way of **EASTER BASKETS!** Many were surprised to see a full grown Easter bunny, but what the heck, aren't churches in the miracle business?! Goodies and cheer were enjoyed by all! Thank you, deacons!

-Thanks to Mary Jane Gould and Lily Kelman-Nelson for planning such a superb **EASTER EGG HUNT** and making it more 'true' to the meaning of Easter.

-Thanks to our **MAUNDY THURSDAY** readers: Mary Leschinski, Joe Schuessler, Karen Bard, Amanda Pitt, Jo Gencorelli, Gary Stuber and Nancy Stuber; our Christ Candle bearer, Charlie Leschinski; our Maundy Thursday set-up crew of Charlie Leschinski, Joe Schuessler and Jonathan Gould; and our Maundy Thursday choir: Karen Bard, Cathy Donohue, Jo Gencorelli, Kristen Jacobsen, Mary Leschinski, Amanda Pitt and Gary Stuber. It was truly a moving and emotional evening.

-Thanks to our **SANCTUARY FLOWER DECORATORS**: Mary Leschinski, Mona Grimm, Kristen Jacobsen, Amana Pitt, Fran Kelly, Rich Kelly, and Joe Nelson; And thanks to Charlie Leschinski who helped prepare a bite to eat for our hard-working volunteers.

-Thanks to all of you who helped make our **EASTER SERVICE** as outstanding as it was: our adult handbell choir under the direction of

Cathy Donohue (Karen Bard, Brian Donohue, Cathy Donohue, Mary Jane Gould, Kristen Jacobsen, Lily Kelman-Nelson, Mary Leschinski, Amanda Pitt, Gary Stuber, Nancy Stuber, and our faithful substitute Jo Gencorelli); our voice choir (Karen Bard, Brian Donohue, Cathy Donohue, Matthew Foster, Jo Gencorelli, Kristen Jacobsen, Lily Kelman-Nelson, Mary Leschinski, Amanda Pitt, and Gary Stuber, with special thanks to **Fuku Foster** who, even though rehearsed diligently with us, came down with a bad cold and fever and was not able to sing with us for Easter. (She was very disappointed!); our candle bearer Charlie Leschinski; our litany leader Mary Leschinski; and to our soloist Lily Kelman-Nelson.

- And with even more thanks to our **USHERS AND COMMUNION SERVERS** who always keep our services running smoothly during these exciting and often hectic holy revelries;
- And last but not least to **REV. WRIGHT**, who guided us through yet another Holy Season with his grace, professionalism, humor, and spiritual prowess!

And speaking of humor.....The Sunday after Easter is called **HOLY HUMOR OR BRIGHT SUNDAY**, and it is meant to leave you with a feeling of lightheartedness and humor. Pastor Wright did just that with a tastefully humorous service and an office-compiled booklet filled with 'pious' jokes and giggles.

The booklets were given out with the worship bulletins, but if you did not get one and would like to see what all the chuckles were about, please give the office a call and one will be emailed or mailed to you. Thank you, Pastor Ralph, for awakening our funny bones!

NEWS FROM OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As you know, we have a vacancy on our Board of Deacons and on our Nominating and Auditing committees. There is also an opening on our Ushering Team #5.

We're looking for a few good souls to fill in the gaps. Please speak with Gary Stuber or Mona Grimm if you can find it in your heart to volunteer.

COMMUNION NEWS for SHUT-INS!



If you, a family member, or neighbor you know of would like to receive home communion, please call the office and let us know. Pastor Wright and the deacons will be giving home communions once a quarter to those wishing to receive it.

AND A FRIENDLY REMINDER to please share your joys and concerns (and birthdays) with one of our deacons or Barbara in the office.

Jo Gencorelli has joyfully decided to temporarily help out the deacons by 'manning the cards' until another deacon is installed. So, if you hear of someone who could use some 'reaching out to', please let Jo know. Her number is 868-1710. Thank you.

CPC ON FACEBOOK: Cathy Donohue is doing a fantastic job updating our **Facebook Page** and our **Website**, and wants to remind everyone to be sure to visit them both!

If you have a Facebook account, please go to: **Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick** and click 'follow and like'. This will insure that you will receive all the postings. If you see something of interest, please share with your friends and ask them to "like" us too. We want to reach as many people as possible.



If you don't have a Facebook account, open one. It's fun and easy and completely FREE!!!!!!!!!!

To create a Facebook account:

1. Go to www.facebook.com/r.php
2. Enter your name, email or mobile phone number, password, date of birth and gender.
3. Click **Sign Up**.
4. To finish creating your account, you'll need to confirm your email or mobile phone number.

If you already have a Facebook account, you can log into your account.

Note: you must be at least 13 years old to create a Facebook account.

If you're still having trouble creating an account, give Cathy a call and she'll help you out.

Cathy is also reminding us to send her **pictures of ANY events at our church:** coffee hours, children's activities, Sunday School, Choir, Handbells, individuals, our building, BIRDS! LOL Please send all pictures via email to Cathy Donohue at emmalou3272@gmail.com.

You can send her 'paper' photos, too, and they don't have to be current! Just put them in Cathy's mailbox in the office with your name, and they will be returned to you promptly.

Also, please let Cathy know of any other events taking place at the church. The more information she receives, the better our website and Facebook page will be!

Remember that at our church, we take the word "community" seriously. Let's let our community know we are here to serve them, to welcome all.



ANYONE GRADUATING FROM ANYWHERE?

Please call the church office and let Barbara know if we have any May or June

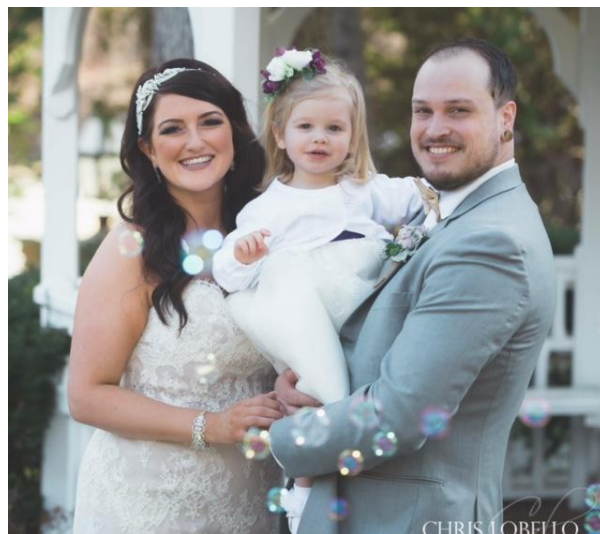
graduates in our midst's and what their plans

are after graduation. We always like to put a little something about them in the June Tower Chimes because they deserve the press!

WEDDING THANKS

Thanks to all the well-wishers for my son, Dave's, wedding last month to Kerry. It turned out to be a beautifully warm day, and the evening wedding went on till the wee hours of the next morning! Pastor Tom performed his usual fantastic and light-hearted service, and the bride and groom AND little Taegan couldn't have been happier! Thank you for your prayers and well wishes!

~Barbara Rivera



Kerry, Taegan and David Rivera

May HAPPENINGS

May Birthdays:

Elizabeth Hwang	11
A. Scott Dodge	14
Judy Wilkin	16
Samantha Grgas	17
Richard Gallo	18
Tony Grgas	20
Ann Seeley	21
Mary Leschinski	27



(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Jo Gencorelli at 868-1710 so we can add your name to our list!)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER –

This year's National Day of Prayer will fall on May 4, 2017, but was recognized by CPC on Sunday, April 30 with handouts supplied by Joe Schuessler and special prayers and scripture by Rev. Ralph Wright.

The mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is to mobilize prayer in America and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Their Task Force is a privately-funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on the understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people. The unanimous passage of the bill establishing the National Day of Prayer as an annual event, signifies that prayer is as important to our nation today as it was in the beginning.

Thank you, Joe, for helping us remember!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



Attention, Ladies! Our next Women's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, **May 13 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.



MOTHER'S DAY falls on **MAY 14** this year and we'll be celebrating here at CPC with a

special 'motherly' service and a special 'Mother's Day' coffee hour afterwards in Grafing Hall. You don't have to be a 'mother' to come and enjoy this special day. **Mother's Day** is a modern celebration honoring one's own mother, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society in general. Please join us!

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



Join us for the baptism of Ernie and Elaine Bayha's newest grandson, Kemraj James Bowani, on **Sunday, May 21** during our worship service.

A special cake and coffee hour will follow the ceremony in Grafing Hall. Congratulations to Kemraj's parents, Kemraj and Christine!

May 21 is also **Presbyterian Heritage Sunday**. Every year, Presbyterians celebrate Heritage Sunday, a day to reflect upon and learn more about the long and rich history of the Presbyterian church in America.

It always falls on the Sunday closest to May 21, the opening date of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789.

Ascension of the Lord – May 25

Forty days after the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday), we remember and celebrate the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. (See Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11; see also Mark 16:19-20.) On this day, the church gives thanks for Christ's sovereign rule over all the earth, as well as his priestly intercession for us at the throne of mercy (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Memorial Day, May 29: Memorial Day is not just a day for air shows and picnics. It's a day to remember the people who died while serving in our country's armed forces.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Please find time on Memorial Day to recite the below prayer:

God of power and mercy,
you destroy war and put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from our midst and
wipe away our tears,
that we may all deserve to be called your sons
and daughters.
Keep in your mercy those men and women
who have died in the cause of freedom
and bring them safely
into your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

—from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

The CPC office will be closed on May 29.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH....

GARAGE SALE - Our Board of Deacons is having another GARAGE SALE on Saturday, June 3 from 10am-4pm!

And you know what that means.... We need YOU and YOUR STUFF! Volunteers will be needed **before, during and after** the sale, and

we need you to go through your garages, cars, sheds, lockers, attics, closets, and basements for donate-able merchandise!

We'll accept almost all merchandise prior to the SALE (you can start dropping off at CPC now), with the really big and bulky items the morning of between 8am and 9:30am. Any big items that do not sell must be taken back by you.

We won't be able to accept any 'personal care items' or items that are broken or have missing parts.

What we CAN accept is: **(but not limited to):** Clothes (donated hangers needed), shoes, jewelry, small furniture, housewares, glassware, tools, rugs, throws, luggage, pocketbooks, computer and car stuff, books and magazines, baby items, knick-knacks, pictures and frames, pet items, linens (**washed**), games, toys, etc. Quality items are always accepted, whether they be new or antique. These items will be put on a 'special quality table'. Tax forms are also available, if requested, for all donations.

~ You may drop off your smaller items at church (on the stage) during Barbara's office hours, and/or on Sundays before or after church. Please get in touch with one of our deacons if those times are not convenient to you.

~ If you want any of your unsold items back, you'll have to pick them up after the sale. Any unclaimed items will be at the disposable discretion of the deacons.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

We'll also be selling some **vegetable and herb plants** for all you home growers out there!



Pricing will be set in June. If you have any questions, please call Mona about the Garage Sale and Mary Leschinski about the vegetables and herbs.

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
	1 7PM Session AT CPC (rescheduled April mtg.) PA 7-10pm	2	3	4 Nat'l Day of Prayer NA 7-9:30p	5 AA 6:45-9:30p	6 10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast in Grafing Hall
7 SHEPHERD'S SUNDAY 10am Worship Service; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Communion (Joe Arcuri, Mona Grimm, Pat Lofaro and Vinny Lofaro); CHILDREN WILL WORSHIP WITH THE FAMILIES IN THE SANCTUARY ; Usher Team #2 (Scott Dodge, Fran Kelly, Alfred Lewis and Bobbie Z-Lewis); Minute for Mission; Refreshments ; NASC 1-6pm	8 OPA 7-10pm	9 AA 7:30-9:30p	10	11 NA 7-9:30p	12 AA 6:45-9:30p	13 Set-up of Grafing Hall for tomorrow's Coffee Hour
14 Mother's Day 10am Worship Service; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Usher Team #3 (David Brackett, Jamie Brackett, Mona Grimm and Joe Nelson); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Coffee Hour	15 May Tower Chimes articles due OPA 7-10pm	16 AA 7:30-9:30p	17	18 NA 7-9:30	19 AA 6:45-9:30p	20
21 Presbyterian Heritage 10a Worship; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Usher Team #4 (Janel Crummy, Jessie Gregorio, Tom Rose and Joe Schuessler); Baptism ; Minute for Mission ; SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Refreshments	22 OPA 7-10pm	23 AA 7:30-9:30p	24 Session 7pm at CPC	25 NA 7-9:30pm	26 AA 6:45-9:30p	27
28 10am Worship; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Usher Team #5 (Joe Arcuri, Pat Lofaro & Vince Lofaro); Minute for Mission ; SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Refreshments	29 MEMORIAL DAY - REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR COUNTRY (CPC Office Closed) OPA 7-10pm	30 AA 7:30-9:30p	31			

Early June:

June 3 - Garage and vegetable / herb plant sale

June 4 – Pentecost and Confirmation of Mia Bello

June 10 – 10am Women's Fellowship breakfast