



The Steeple Chimes

The E-Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
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Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

May, 2022

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

I belong to a terrific clergy group on the North Fork. We call ourselves Greenport Ecumenical Ministries (GEM), and we invite clergy from Mattituck to Orient to participate.

Once a year, we do a “field trip,” and have gone to places like a Greek Orthodox Monastery, a Buddhist Temple, Our Lady of the Island Shrine, and The Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County.

This year, our GEM President suggested that because of the stress of the current times, perhaps a clergy retreat might be in order, so he arranged for us to have a Day of Prayer at a retreat center.

Much thought and planning was put into this Day of Prayer. When the day arrived, eleven of us headed for the Villa Immaculata Retreat House in Riverhead. But when we got there, things began to go wrong.

The morning started out with a fallen tree blocking the driveway to the Retreat House. We had to wait while it was removed, and ended up starting late. Then we learned that the toilets weren't flushing properly. The stairs going down to the beach were in need of repair, so there were no prayerful walks in the sand. And, the lawn furniture had not yet been moved out to the patio, so there was no comfortable place outside to sit.

But none of that mattered, because we are all good friends, and we had a wonderful indoor time of sharing, praying, and supporting each other's ministries. We left feeling refreshed, and when our President said, “We'll do this again next May,” we replied “No! We need to do this twice a year!”

Some folks think that clergy have all the answers. Others are under the impression that we have a unique closeness to God that members of the congregation do not possess. None of that is true. What we do have is a lot of responsibility, a feeling of confusion coming out of a 2-year pandemic, and a sincere hope that God will help us to slow our lives down long enough to discern what the “new normal” is going to be. Those few hours at the Retreat Center apart from the world (the cell phone reception was lousy) with God and friends energized us enough to get ourselves through the next several weeks. I hope.

I don't know what it is about the month of May. Everyone I run into is being pulled in a dozen different directions, myself included. “I've got to slow down,” we say to ourselves. But how do we accomplish that?



I don't have the answers, but I have some suggestions. Time with God. Time with nature. Time with friends. Time away from the hustle and bustle of the world. It worked for a bunch of East End Clergy. Perhaps it will work for you as well.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Ann

Zoom Worship

We will continue to "simulcast" our Sunday worship on Zoom for those who cannot be in the Sanctuary. You may log on as early as 10:00 a.m. for our 10:30 Celebration of Worship.

The easiest way to do Zoom is to download the Zoom App from the App Store. Zoom will work on a computer, a laptop, an I-Pad, or a Smartphone.

What are the Meeting IDs for Sunday Worship ?

May 1 through June 12, inclusive, the **Meeting ID is: 876 3374 9414 Passcode: 327702**

If you are on the church e-mail list, you will get a weekly e-mail with the Zoom link.

I don't have a computer or a Smartphone. What can I do?

You may telephone the following number:

1-646-558-8656.

You will be asked for a Meeting ID and a passcode. (Please see paragraph 3.)

You won't be able to see us, but you can still hear what's going on.



Birthday Blessings!

5/02	Althea Segale
5/06	Gloria Arelt
5/07	Amanda Segale
5/11	Barbara Charnews
5/12	Simone Pennino
5/16	Laurence Foray
5/16	Ronald Lievendag
5/17	Christopher Perrotta
5/17	Cathy Close
5/18	Daniel Charnews
5/21	Jane Longstreet
5/30	Carol Eitel



Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2022

Diane Kirchhoff
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach
Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Prayer Corner

Betty Chatfield, who normally writes this column, is away this month. Instead, I will share a few thoughts with you.

With love and blessings,
Pastor Ann

When I was 9 or 10 years old, someone gave me a Classics Illustrated comic book (remember those?) about the life of Joan of Arc. I read it so many times that it ended up in tatters.

Joan was born in 1412, during the Hundred Years War between England and France. At age 13, she began having visions of saints who eventually told her to join this war. By the age of 16, she was leading and winning military campaigns. Sadly, she was betrayed by those whom she trusted, and was burned at the stake in Rouen at the age of 19.

I admired her strong faith. Joan of Arc, or Jeanne d'Arc, became part of my faith journey as well. When things go badly, I often think of how Joan never lost her faith, even when she was condemned to death.

I had hoped to find a prayer that Joan had written. I couldn't find one. But I do have several quotes attributed to her that I would like to share with you. Perhaps you will find inspiration in them as I have.

One life is all we have and we live it as we believe in living it. But to sacrifice what you are and to live without belief, that is a fate more terrible than dying.

I would rather die than do something which I know to be a sin, or to be against God's will.

Go forward bravely. Fear nothing. Trust in God; all will be well.

I am the drum on which God is beating out his message.

How else would God speak to me, if not through my imagination?

It is better to be alone with God. His friendship will not fail me, nor His counsel, nor His love. In His strength, I will dare and dare and dare until I die.

I place trust in God, my Creator, in all things; I love Him with all my heart.

I fear nothing for God is with me!

Act, and God will act.

Help yourself and God will help you

.. since God commanded me to go, I must do it.

This is a prayer that I found – a prayer to Joan of Arc. Since in our religious tradition we do not pray to saints, I have written it out as if it were a poem.

In the face of your enemies,
in the face of harassment, ridicule, and doubt,
you held firm in your faith.
Even in your abandonment,
alone and without friends,
you held firm in your faith.
Even as you faced your own mortality,
you held firm in your faith.

I pray that I may be as bold in my beliefs
as you were, Joan.

I ask that you ride alongside me in my own battles.
Help me be mindful that what is worthwhile
can be won when I persist.
Help me hold firm in my faith.
Help me to believe in my ability
to act well and wisely.

In Loving Memory

Carolyn Brockett

(January 9, 1945 – April 16, 2022)



Carolyn Brockett passed away on April 16, 2022, at the age of 77 on Long Island, NY.

Carolyn was born on January 9, 1945, at Sydenham Hospital in Harlem, NY, to Calhoun and Virginia Walker. She is survived by one beloved brother, Edward Walker (Dolores, Craig, Candice, and Sydney). Carolyn graduated from Hempstead High School in 1963.

On January 9, 1971, Carolyn married Cassell Brockett, and from that union, she had two children: Jennaire Stradford (Shawn Sr. and Shawn II), and Cassell Brockett, Jr. (Cassell III).

Carolyn started working at The Catholic Medical Center in the payroll department. She continued to work in various locations for the same organization. Carolyn retired from Bishop Mugavero Senior Center in 2015, where she worked in human resources.

Once retired, Carolyn wanted to stay busy, so she volunteered at the Senior Gift Shop. This was not enough, so she took classes to become an Ombudsman. Once she completed training, she volunteered at several local nursing homes where she became an advocate for the patients there. Carolyn was a member of the Red Hats, where she

enjoyed participating in events and venturing out with the girls.

After relocating to East Northport, Carolyn would return to Queens for church services at Epiphany Lutheran Church. She visited many churches until she found The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn. Here, she found her new church home. Carolyn took the most pride in her position of Deacon in the church. She loved her new church home, the Pastor, and the friends she met here.

Carolyn's grandchildren, Cassell III (Boop Boop) and Shawn II, were the apple of her eye. Carolyn insisted on summer vacations, cruises, and Florida time share trips, which resulted in lots of visits to Disney. These would be memories that her grandchildren will treasure. Grandma Carolyn was also their biggest supporter and cheerleader.

The past two years have been extraordinary for her children, Jennaire and Cassell. To look back and see the strength she demonstrated for everything that she endured, one can see that Carolyn had more faith than that of a mustard seed. Her faith in God preserved her long enough to allow peace in the end.

Mom taught us to never give up. Most of all, she wanted us to be happy. So, we will not say "Goodbye," but rather, "See you later." We will meet her again, and we know that she is smiling down on us saying, "Job well done."

- Jennaire Stradford

The Women's Choir



Spring Worship at FPC Greenlawn



The lovely tree in our courtyard in full bloom.

Easter fell on April 17th this year. We had a very special Service with our Women's Choir singing two anthems, and Andrew Segale accompanying our hymns on the trumpet. After an absence of two years, our "Flowering of the Cross" returned, and Debbie Eitel sang "Because He Lives" while we placed the flowers. The sermon was "I Don't Understand Easter."

We celebrated Earth Day on April 24, thanking God for the gift of the earth. The Service was followed by a church property clean-up.

On May 1, we heard about the unfinished business that Jesus had with Peter. Perhaps there is unfinished business between us and God, as well. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

May 8 was Mother's Day. We celebrated the gift of *all* women in our lives by placing photos of these women on the Communion Table. Flowers and pens were given to all the women in our congregation. The sermon centered around important women of the Bible.

May 15 was a special day for our church. Susan and Richard Brewster, who served on *Mercy Ships* on and off for 25 years, were our guest speakers, and gave us insight into this wonderful charity.

Upcoming Worship

On Sunday, May 22, our guest Minister will be Dr. Donald T. Russo. His sermon title is "What Does God Really Want?"

May 29 is Memorial Day Weekend. We will have a patriotic Service remembering those who died in service to our country.

Pentecost will be celebrated on June 5. On that day, we will also celebrate our music ministry with soloists and choir anthems. There will be a special guest appearance by baritone soloist Peter Osterman.

On June 12, Rev. Kevin Ford, Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cutchogue, will be our guest Minister.

June 19 is Father's Day. We will be honoring our fathers with photos on the Communion Table and special gifts for all the men in the church.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PENTECOST

Presbyterian Church Pentecost Offering

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The Pentecost Offering will be received on Sunday, June 5. Please be generous. Thank you.

We Honored Women on Mother's Day



Buildings and Grounds Committee Update

(1) All spring cleanup activities have been completed except for cleaning of the roof gutters. They will be cleaned the last week of May.

(2) Cause and Correction for Loss of Heat: It appears that the heating system became air-bound due a leak in the baseboard heating pipes in the Christian Education Building upper-level finance office, and a plugged strainer in the water supply to the heating boilers. This condition led to the failure of the circulator in the Christian Education Building upper-level finance office circuit and the circulator in the Christian Education Building lower-level south Sunday school circuit. The leak was the result of contact wear erosion between pipes. Sections of the copper pipe were replaced. The failed circulators were also replaced. A second leak was reported in the Christian Education Building lower-level north Sunday school circuit. This leak was also the result of contact wear erosion between the heating piping and the concrete wall which the piping passed through.

The committee spent considerable time and effort in removing built-in shelves and cabinets in the finance office to provide the heating contractor, Master Mechanical, access to repair the leak. During this effort a serious substandard electrical circuit was found. It was removed and a new up-to-code circuit was installed. Before returning the office to the Finance Committee, the walls were repaired, painted, and the damaged carpeting removed.

The committee will be pursuing additional inspections of the baseboard heating in the Christian Education building to see if there are more areas where leaks could be experienced in the future. Considering that the building is 67 years old, we could be at the end of the baseboard heating life cycle. The inspections and resulting repairs could have substantial costs, which the committee will identify before proceeding.

(3) The committee approved the use of Windmill Oil Tank Service to remove and replace the oil tank in the Manse; they were the low bidder. The work will be scheduled for the second week of July with the estimated cost of \$3,000.



(4) Inspection of Sanctuary Roof: The committee made a visual inspection and noted areas where there appeared to be some lifting of the shingles. The roofing contractor, East Coast Remodeling, will be requested to make an inspection.

(5) The renovation of bathrooms project has been put on hold.

(6) Craig Satterlee continues to investigate various security camera systems for the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

(7) The annual maintenance of A/C units has been completed.

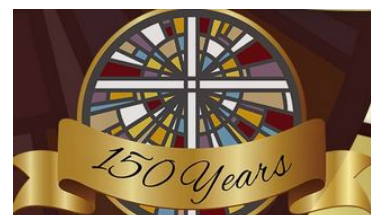
(8) Old Business: Pending light repairs in the Christian Education building will be completed by replacing the lights with new LED fixtures

Celebrating our 150th Anniversary

On Sunday, May 8, we held a Congregational Meeting to discuss ways to celebrate our 150th Anniversary. Some of the suggestions were:

- Commemorative lapel pins
- A Peace Pole
- Gala Anniversary Luncheon at the Moose Hall on Sunday, October 23
- Anniversary journal
- Booklet of memories
- Update our timeline
- Photos of church activities through the years printed on the Sunday bulletins, including Flowered Cross and Living Nativity
- A fashion show of clothing styles over the past 150 years
- A time capsule
- Music at the Anniversary Luncheon
- A hymn fest – hymns through the ages
- Inviting former Pastors and former members
- Invite the SpiritLifters
- A group photograph
- Coverage by News 12
- 150th Anniversary banner in front of the church

A Task Force will be organized to sift through these ideas. Please see Pastor Ann if you are interested.



Easter Sunday at FPC Greenlawn



Earth Day Cleanup

