



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*January – February, 2024*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Church Family,

It's been a couple of months since the last edition of *The Steeple Chimes* was published. Thank you for understanding, as dealing with my husband Bob's final illness and passing took priority for me.

There are times in life when we reach a crossroad and ask ourselves "What am I to do next?" High school graduation, choosing a career, marriage, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, these are all occasions for introspection and discernment. For people of faith, that means listening for what God has to say, because we know that God is still speaking.

Last Sunday, the Lectionary reading included the call of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-10). After I read that passage, I looked at the congregation and said, "Wouldn't it be easy if God were to speak to us as in Old Testament times?" That would make discernment so much more efficient. But sometimes, we *need* the process of discernment. If you tell a child not to touch the hot stove, there's a chance that the child won't listen. But if (s)he touches the stove and it hurts a little, the child goes through a discernment process and learns very quickly that hot stoves should be avoided.

Most of us are not going to hear voices in the night or be visited by angels in dreams. Yet, God speaks to us in other ways: through people who come into our lives, through obstacles placed in our paths, and through experiences that make us both stronger and wiser human beings.

Looking at my own life, I have never been a risk taker. I chose teaching as a career because there weren't many career options open to women, and I didn't want to be a nurse or a secretary. Years later, when I took a battery of psychological tests required for ministers-to-be, the results of the career recommendations test said: (1) religious leader, (2) attorney, and, believe it or not, (3) school superintendent! What would my life have been like had I trusted God and taken a few risks?

As we get older, many of us think to ourselves, "Have I used God's gifts wisely? Have I made my little corner of the world a better place? What will my legacy be? What will they say about me at my Memorial Service?" If we're not satisfied with the answers, we need to ask ourselves, "How can I fix that?"

In my case, I'm going to be more of a risk taker. I'm not going to turn down invitations. I'm going to look at people who have crossed my path and discern why God has placed them there. I'm going to look at rocks in my path, and if I can't kick them out of the way, I'm going to figure out how to get around them, climb over them, or even tunnel under them.



This past week, I came across the following. I have shared it with a few friends, and now I share it with you. I hope it will make a difference in your life, and maybe bring you closer to your goal of discerning what God wants you to do and to be.

There are 5 things in life you cannot recover:

1. A stone ... after it's thrown.
2. A word ... after it's said.
3. An occasion ... after it's missed.
4. The time ... after it's gone.
5. A person ... after they die.

Life is short. Break the rules. Forgive quickly.  
Kiss slowly. Love truly. Laugh uncontrollably.  
And never regret anything that made you smile! Enjoy Life!!

With love and blessings,

*Pastor Ann*



## Birthday Blessings

January 2 – Rosalie Wilson  
January 22 – Betty Chatfield  
January 25 – Linda Rixon  
January 26 – Stephanie Horne

February 5 – Jayne Ramirez  
February 8 – Caroline Prentiss  
February 9 – Kathy Fitzgerald  
February 14 – Bill Chatfield  
February 23 – Bill Becker

March 16 – Diane Kirchhoff  
March 22 – Michael Ramirez



### 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 is the Meeting ID?**

Good news! We were able to program ZOOM so that the log-on information is the same now through the last Sunday in June. Hooray! **Meeting ID: 820 9580 8348 Passcode: 128114**

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 4.)

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

# in *Loving Memory*

## **Robert A. (Bob) Van Cleef (February 15, 1936 – November 21, 2023)**

Robert A. (Bob) Van Cleef of Greenport, NY passed away at home on November 21, 2023, at the age of 87, from complications associated with vascular dementia.

Bob was very proud of the fact that he was a direct descendant (12 generations) of Jan Van Cleef, one of the first Dutch settlers of Brooklyn in 1635.

He was born in Queens, NY, to Clifford and Cecelia (Bassett) Van Cleef on February 15, 1936. Raised in Hollis, Queens, Bob was educated at The McBurney School in Manhattan. He was a proud graduate of Grove City College (Grove City, PA) where he won awards in track and field. Later, he attended The College of Insurance in New York.

Bob served in the US Army in the Transportation Division at Fort Eustis, VA, winning medals for Marksmanship, Sharpshooting, and Good Conduct. He spent an additional six years in the Army Reserve, stationed at Camp Kilmer in NJ.

He married Lettie Luellen White, whom he met at Hollis Presbyterian Church, in April of 1962. Together, they raised two daughters, Kathleen and Christine, in their home in West Islip. Bob worked for the Wesfair Insurance Agency in Manhattan (and later Chappaqua) for 42 years. Lettie taught science on the junior high level in West Islip. They were both very active in The Westminster United Presbyterian Church in West Islip.

Bob and Lettie retired to Orient in 2001, after having spent many happy summer vacations there. Sadly, Lettie died of cancer in 2003.

In 2004, Bob married Ann Abbate Sutton, who had been serving the Orient Congregational Church as a seminary student. The congregation had

invited Ann to become their settled Pastor, and the wedding and ordination took place on the same day.

Bob and Ann traveled the world together and served the Orient church as devoted layperson and Pastor for an additional fifteen years. Since February of 2020, they have been serving The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn.

One of Bob's great joys was traveling. During the past two decades he acquired an understanding of many cultures and an empathy for those who don't enjoy the advantages that we have in this country.

In addition to serving God and traveling, Bob was a family man. He loved his children and grandchildren, his extended family, and his friends. He adored fly fishing, sailing, and gardening. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Greenport. He was a devoted Mets fan, but never gave up hoping that his beloved Dodgers would one day return to Brooklyn.

Bob is survived by his wife, The Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef, his daughters Dr. Kathleen Van Cleef Toedt (Steve Cohen), Christine Van Cleef (Billy Berliner), and stepson, G. Philip Sutton (Meaghan Cranney). He is also survived by grandchildren Christian Van Cleef, Alexander Toedt, and Brianna Toedt, as well as his brother Donald E. Van Cleef (Mina Merle), his best friends, Richard Stumpf, and Norma and Todd Danielson, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Burial with military honors took place in the family plot at Orient Central Cemetery on Wednesday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m. A Memorial Service occurred at noon at The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn.



*He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,  
miracles that cannot be counted.*

Job 5:8-9



# Prayer Corner

Submitted by Betty Chatfield

## JUST FOR TODAY

Just for today – I will live through the next 12 hours and not try to tackle all of life's problems at once.

Just for today – I will improve my mind. I will learn something useful. I will read something that requires thought and concentration.

Just for today – I will be agreeable. I will look my best, speak in a well-modulated voice, be courteous and considerate.

Just for today – I will not find fault with friend, relative or colleague. I will not try to change or improve anyone but myself.

Just for today – I will do a good turn and keep it a secret. If anyone finds out, it won't count.

Just for today – I will have a program. I might not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two enemies – hurry and indecision.

Just for today – I will do two things I don't want to do, just because I need the discipline.

Just for today – I will believe in myself. I will give my best to the world and feel confident that the world will give its best to me.

## NEW YEARS PRAYER

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that You are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what You want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with You now, one day at a time.

Loyola Press

*But if it were I, I would appeal to God;  
I would lay my cause before Him.*

## TEN ABSOLUTES FOR CAREGIVERS

~ Alzheimer's Family Organization

Never Argue – instead – Agree

Never Reason – instead – Divert

Never Shame – instead – Distract

Never Lecture – instead - Reassure

Never say 'Remember' – instead – 'Reminisce'

Never say 'I told you' – instead – Repeat/Regroup

Never say 'You can't' - instead – 'Let's do this.'

Never Command/Demand – instead – Ask/Model

Never Condescend – instead – Encourage/Praise

Never Force – instead - Reinforce

## LOOK FOR THINGS

~Edna Jaques

Look for things to be thankful for;

A dear old face at an open door,

The table set for the family meal,

A husband's love that is true as steel.

A cushioned chair that you fixed yourself,

Your favorite books on a nearby shelf,

A green-hued twilight that sort of glows,

The clean, fresh smell of a brier rose.

An old windjammer that you recall

Beating its way through an April squall,

Its old sides crusted with salty spray,

Limping in at the close of day.

The lovely odor of lemon peel,

A humble man with a flaming zeal

For a worthy cause that he thinks is right;

The feeling of warmth on a winter night.

Look for things to be thankful for:

A braided rug on your bedroom floor,

A dormer window with curtains drawn,

A bluebird singing across the lawn.

So much to be thankful for these days,

So much to enjoy and love and praise.

*"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because*

*to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”*

*1 Peter 3:8-9 NIV*



January 7: How logical was it for the Magi to seek the child Jesus, especially when it flew in the face of their beliefs? “Logical? Not when Jesus Is Involved.” The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.

January 14: Following Jesus means calling others to follow him as well. The sermon: “Calling Others”

January 21: There are things in life we wish we could do over. The sermon is, “May I Have a Do-Over, God?”

January 28: Dr. Don Russo will preach. His sermon is titled, “The Invitation.”

February 4: Minister Glenn Rubin will preach. His sermon is called, “Who Is God?”

February 11: Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday of the Epiphany Season. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain and is transfigured before them. And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

February 18: Lent I. We will explore the Baptism of Jesus.

February 25: Jesus tells his followers that he must undergo great suffering, rejection, be killed, and rise again.

March 3: The 10 Commandments are presented. We will unpack one or two of them.

March 10: “God so loved the world.”

March 17: Jesus talks of his upcoming death, saying, “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it does, it bears much fruit.”

March 24: Palm Sunday. We celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

March 31: Easter Sunday. We celebrate Christ’s glorious Resurrection.

### **Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 21. During the meeting, we accepted the Annual Report and reviewed the budget for 2024. Arlissa Dean and Kathie Gerlach were re-elected to Session. Craig Satterlee was thanked for his service on Session and his devotion to our church. Copies of our Annual Report are available in the church office for those who were unable to attend the meeting.



### **Wednesday Night Lenten Services**

“Is it soup yet?” Remember that old commercial?

Yes, it’s soup! And chili, and bread, and a few other things as well.

Our Wednesday Night Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and go through March 13. They will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end when everyone is full and happy!

Please invite your friends, and decide what kind of soup you want to bring. We like to have about five different kinds of soups each week.

Want to attend but don’t like to drive at night? Please see Pastor Ann, and we will arrange a ride for you.

### **Congregational Care Committee**

Our Congregational Care Committee, under the leadership of Arlissa Dean, meets on an informal basis to discuss the needs of our members and how the committee can assist.

Do you have a heart for caring for others? Talk to Arlissa about joining this kind and helpful group.

### **February 14 is National Donor Day**

Valentine's Day has a new meaning when you need an organ transplant to survive. 120,000 Americans, who are currently waiting for precious organ transplants, depend on people to sign up with their state's organ donor registries on National



Donor Day every February 14. It's a more concrete way to show love than giving heart-shaped candy, roses, or red velvet teddy bears. By donating organs such as corneas, tissue, marrow, platelets, and blood, you create a living legacy of your generosity with the ultimate gift of love.

In New York State, you may log onto the New York State Donate Life Registry for information on becoming an organ or tissue donor. You may also sign up when you renew your driver's license.



### **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

On Saturday, March 9, our church will observe St. Patrick's Day in style, with a St. Patrick's Day Celebration chaired by Priscilla Jahier.

Our CE Hall will be decorated, corned beef, cabbage, and Irish soda bread will be on the menu, Irish songs will be on the Karaoke machine, and Irish dancers will perform for us.

Tickets will be reasonable priced. Meanwhile spread the word among family and friends. Remember, we're all Irish on St. Patty's Day!

### **Theatre Party**

Last year, Harborfields High School invited the seniors in the area to a special performance of their musical show, *Newsies*. Our congregation accepted the invitation, and we thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

This year, the date of the senior performance is Wednesday, March 20. Snacks and a special performance by the high school jazz band will be at 5:00 p.m., and the musical show will be at 6:00 p.m.

We haven't been informed of the name of the musical, but we know it's going to be excellent. Mark your calendars. A sign-up sheet will be circulated shortly.



### **New Members**



On Sunday, December 31, we joyfully added six new members to our church family: Roy Cance, Bob Schrenker, Liz Schrenker, Peggy Monitto, Priscilla Jahier, and Glenn Jahier pose with Pastor Ann, while Betty Chatfield smiles from the pulpit.

### **New Refrigerator**

Our beautiful new refrigerator has been delivered and installed in the kitchen. Thank you so much to those who contributed funds for its purchase.

More good news – an anonymous church member has contributed money for the purchase of a dishwasher, which will be purchased and installed in the near future.

### **Becoming a Contagious Christian**

Last spring, Bill Becker taught a class for Session members called *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. This spring, the class will be offered to all church members. It will take place for six consecutive Sundays, noon to 1 p.m., dates to be determined. Sign-up will be soon. Please see Bill Becker for further details.



### **New Years Eve at FPC Greenlawn**

We rang in the New Year twelve hours early on Sunday, December 31. (Who wants to stay up until midnight, anyway?) Along with making noise and singing *Auld Lang Syne*, we had our annual Christmas Sweater Contest. There were no ugly sweaters this year; congratulations to Marian Adams and Jane Longstreet for winning “Two Prettiest Sweaters.”



### **Welcome to the Christian Life, James Frank Hallstein**



It was our joy to baptize James Frank Hallstein (born April 30, 2023) on October 29. James is the son of Kyle James Hallstein and Giovanna Palma Hallstein.

*Leonora and Jack Knight at Lessons and Carols*

### **Christmas at Our Church**

Our celebration began with a lovely Christmas Tea in early December, then a fun Christmas Fair a week later. Our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols took place on December 17, and then our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24. Sadly, our outdoor Christmas Tree Lighting had to be canceled due to rain; we will be sure to have a “Plan B” for next year.

A good woman is by your side during bad times to tell you that none of this would have happened if you had just listened to her.



I'm glad I learned about parallelograms in high school math instead of how to do my taxes. It comes in so handy during parallelogram season.

If you're happy and you know it, stay in bed.  
If you're happy and you know it, stay in bed.  
If you're happy and you know it,  
getting up will surely blow it.  
If you're happy and you know it, stay in bed.

My wife just stopped and said, "You weren't even listening, were you?" I thought ... "That's a pretty weird way to start a conversation."

Don't drink and wrap presents. Also, if anyone gets a remote control for Christmas, I'm gonna need that back.

My wife asked for a chap stick and I accidentally gave her a glue stick. She's still not talking to me.

Every night around 11:00 p.m. I realize that it's only about 6:00.

Sometimes I think I'm reasonably intelligent, and sometimes I click the remote car door lock a second or third time for extra lockiness.

When we're young we sneak out of our houses to go to parties. But when we're old, we sneak out of parties to go home.

My husband could never have an affair because I'd have to plan it for him and remind him to go.

The kids keep laughing about my memory. They won't be laughing at Christmas when there's no eggs under the tree!

You know you're getting old when you clean to the music you used to party to.

### **Church Calendar Highlights**

At its January letting, the Session added the following events to our church calendar:

- Tuesday, January 30, Presbytery Meeting via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 11, Communion
- Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Supper, CE Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 18, choir begins weekly 9:30 a.m. rehearsals
- Tuesday, February 20, Session Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 21, Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 28, Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 3, Communion
- Wednesday, March 6, Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 9, St. Patrick's Day Celebration, CE Hall, early evening
- Tuesday, March 19, Session Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 20, Refreshments and Spring Musical, Harborfields High School, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday
- Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday Service, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday
- Sunday, April 7, Communion
- Saturday, April 13, Presbytery Meeting in person, West Islip, 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 23, Session Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- Saturday, April 27, Indoor Yard Sale, 9 – 3
- Sunday, April 28, Earth Day Churchyard Clean-up, 12 noon
- Sunday, May 5, Communion
- Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day
- Sunday, May 19, Pentecost and Music Ministries Sunday
- Tuesday, May 21, Session Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- Sunday, May 26, Memorial Day Sunday





