



The Steeple Chimes

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

April - May, 2023

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

In the February issue of *The Steeple Chimes*, I talked about tithing. I said that I was going to take that on as a Lenten practice, and then report back to you about how I have been blessed.

Let me give you a little background. In September of 2021, three people within one week spoke to me about Dave Ramsey, a Christian financial “guru,” for want of a better word.

I had never heard of Dave Ramsey. But when three people bring up the same subject in the same week, I am smart enough to realize that perhaps God is trying to get my attention. So, I started watching Ramsey’s podcasts and bought some of his books. What had to say made a lot of sense to me.

Ramsey has a 7-step “Baby Steps” program leading to what he calls “financial peace.”

- (1) Save \$1,000 for an emergency fund.
- (2) Pay off all debt (except the house) using the Debt Snowball.
- (3) Save 3 – 6 months of expenses in a fully-funded Emergency Fund.
- (4) Invest 15% of your household income in retirement
- (5) Save for your children’s college.
- (6) Pay off your home early.
- (7) Enjoy being debt-free, and be outrageously generous.

Each step comes with directions, the most important ones being (1) Take a look at your spending habits and stop spending unnecessarily, and (2) Create a monthly budget and stick to it!

I started the program in October, 2021, and to date, I have paid off over \$57,000 worth of debt. I didn’t have any credit card debt; this debt was on the car, the RV, and now, I’m paying off the house. (I’m on Baby Step 6.) How did this happen? For one thing, I stayed out of stores, restaurants, and 7-11s. And, I was very intentional about sticking to the monthly budget.

Part of Dave’s philosophy is the idea of being outrageously generous. “Over-tip,” he says. “And, make sure you tithe.”



Tithing was a scary thought. Before October of 2021, I was living paycheck to paycheck. How could I possibly give away one tenth of my income? “Put the tithe at the top of your budget, and God will take care of the rest,” Dave teaches.

Once I got past Baby Step 3 (I didn’t need to do steps 4 and 5), I took the leap. And guess what! The first month I tried tithing, I ended up with extra money at the end of the month. (Instead of extra month at the end of the money.)

“This can’t be possible,” I thought. But the same thing happened at the end of the second month. God seems to have a weird way of doing math. When you put God first, everything else just seems to fall into place.

At the beginning of my first tithing month, I wondered how I was going to be blessed. An unheard-of uncle remembering me in his will? 25 pounds of weight dropping from my frame without any effort on my part? None of that happened. What did happen, among other things, was I seemed to find more discretionary time in my day, I found a ring that I thought was lost forever, and, out of the blue, my college roommate re-connected with me after almost 20 years.

Luke 6:38 says, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

I can hardly wait to see what God is going to do next!

With love and blessings,

Pastor Ann



Birthday Blessings

- May 5 – Gloria Arelt
- May 11 – Barbara Charnews
- May 12 – Simone Pennino
- May 16 – Larry Foray
- May 17 – Christopher Perrotta
- May 18 – Dan Charnews
- May 21 – Jane Longstreet
- May 27 – Paul Proctor

- June 18 – Gary Prentiss
- June 20 – Darlene Jacobs
- June 20 – Michelle Perrotta
- June 22 – Frances Woodward
- June 23 – Marian Adams
- June 24 – Craig Satterlee



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 late spring?

Now through May 21, inclusive:

The **Meeting ID** is **811 4762 6880**. The **Passcode** is **513956**

May 28 through July 9, inclusive,

The **Meeting ID** is **875 3504 2165**. The **Passcode** is **160223**

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.



Carol Ann Pape Eitel
(May 30, 1936 – April 23, 2023)

Carol Ann Pape was born on May 30, 1936, to Kathleen and Charles Pape, in Midwood Hospital, Brooklyn, NY. She was the eldest of two children; her younger brother was named Kenneth Charles. Her father died of a heart attack when Carol was 6 years old and her brother was just an infant, leaving her mother a young widow. Kathleen did not work, so her husband's parents helped to raise and support the children. The family lived in a home in Flushing Queens; the home is still owned by the family.

In her early years, Carol and her best friend Barbara Deuer (Moder) loved to roller skate. They wore their poodle skirts with the pom poms and walked to the rink and back home again almost

every day. Her brother Kenny was friends with Barbara's brother Richard. Carol and Barbara remained close friends throughout their entire lives.

Even though they had gone to the same schools (PS 120 and Flushing High School), Carol met Bob Eitel at the nearby Queensboro Hill Community Church (Reformed Church in America). Carol went to Bob's house to invite him to a church Halloween party. Shortly after that, they began to date. Bob proposed to Carol as they were driving to one of her relatives' homes in New Jersey. Carol said “YES!” and they were married on May 4, 1957, at the church where the couple had met. After they were married, they lived for a time with Bob's parents, Julia & Leo Eitel.

Carol worked in the billing department of the New York Telephone Company in Jamaica Queens for about 4-5 years. Then, Bob was drafted into the US Army, and was stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The couple lived in a trailer in nearby Radcliffe. It was there that they met another young couple, Christine and Sonny LaDuke. (Sonny had also been drafted into the Army.) The two couples became lifelong friends.

Their first child, Linda Susan, was born in the Fort Knox Army Hospital. Bob served two years active duty in Kentucky, then two years Active Reserve, and finally two years Inactive Reserve.

Upon returning to New York from Kentucky, they lived again with Bob's parents while they searched for a home. They found a model home that they liked in East Northport, and contracted to have this home built for them at 29 Penfield Drive. They lived in this home for over 60 years.



Bob was working at The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (better known as The A&P) in Huntington, and would drive to East Northport on his lunch hour to watch the house being built. The curved walls in the house were formed by wetting and then bending the sheetrock. The water they used to bend the walls was in a hole in the basement floor!

Bob worked at The A&P for 38 years before retiring. Carol worked as a wife, mother, and homemaker. They had three more children over the years: Debra Ellen, James Robert, and Janice Ann. Sadly, the couple lost their only son, James Robert, at 5-1/2 years old to stomach cancer. It was a tragic blow, but the family stuck together and endured.

It was through their next-door neighbor that the Eitels found The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn, where they became active members. Bob was an Elder and a long-time member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Carol helped with Vacation Bible School, handling snacks for the children. Together, they organized Coffee Hour hosting schedules for many years.

Carol loved to sew. She and her mother, Kay, would sew clothing (dresses, coats, prom dresses) for themselves, the kids, and eventually the grandchildren. They also made curtains and bedspreads.

The Eitels enjoyed vacations and trips together, driving happily in the family station wagon. The backyard pool was a favorite hangout for the kids, grandkids, and many friends. Bob has been known to say, "Carol has spent 60 years shopping in the baby and kids' department," as there was always a child in the house. They loved to watch their grandchildren, and helped to raise them to be the loving and caring people that they are today.

Carol made family and friends alike feel welcomed and loved and heard. She kept track of what her extended family members were up to, and took an interest in everything they did. Carol was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a friend to all she knew.

Carol and Bob would have celebrated their 66th Anniversary on May 4th of this year. She was the love of Bob's life, and he was the love of hers. They were partners in both good times and bad, and lived a lifetime of love and good example.

She is survived by her husband, Bob, her children: Linda Rixon (John), Debbie Eitel, and Janice Hago; her loving grandchildren: Tatiana Crosby (Joseph), Briana Rixon, Julie Hago, and Tyler Hago, and her adored great-grandchildren, Layla Crosby and Mila Crosby. Everyone who met Carol loved her. She will be missed.

Lievendag Family Donates Steinway Piano In Memory of Pat and Ron Lievendag

The Lievendag family has donated Pat's beautiful Steinway upright piano to our church. It has been placed in the Narthex; the piano that had been in the Narthex has been moved to CE Hall.

We thank the Lievendag family for this generous gift; we plan to have an engraved nameplate put on the piano which will read: "In loving memory of Patricia and Ronald Lievendag, donated by their family."





Prayer Corner

Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make. Eternal life is in him, and this life gives light to all mankind. His life is the light that shines through the darkness—and the darkness can never extinguish it.
~John 1:1-4 Living Bible

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

~CPH Publishing, St. Louis

On this day, set aside to honor mothers, we thank You especially for the gift of Christian mothers. Bless them always. Give them grace to set a good example for their families. Make them constantly aware that their children are a sacred trust from heaven. Hold Your protecting hand over them, and give them strength for every job, courage for each trial, and trust in You that each day grows stronger.

I thank You particularly for the gift of my mother and for her love, which has often comforted me. I ask You to help make me worthy of it. May I never do anything that would grieve her heart. May I always follow the path that she has charted—the path which leads to You. Guide our footsteps that we walk in the love of Jesus, who set an example by His love for His mother. This is our prayer in His name. Amen.

Gracious God, Heavenly Father, I must confess that I am sometimes upset by the many changes that come in life. I find it difficult to make the necessary adjustments. I do not ask to understand, but help me, I pray, to always realize that no matter what happens to me, and what changes must be made, You still love me and will make every experience work together for good. Take full possession of my heart, remove all sin, scatter all doubts, drive away all worries. Let Your Spirit set aglow in me a love that will not die. Increase in me day after day the desire to follow You to whatever place You shall lead. ~Anon

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon, instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.

~Dale Carnegie

COME IN

~Mary Ann Allen

*Come into my home and be hugged, my friend,
Where joys begin and troubles end.
Our dreams and memories we'll blend,
And we'll speak of God's love that will never end.
Oh, praise His precious name!*

*The curtains are drawn, the sash is up,
The kettle sings of the warming cup.
Together we will chat and sup,
No cares of earth will our joy disrupt.
Oh, praise His precious name!*

*I'll tell you how He's been so true,
You tell me all He's done for you,
And we'll deeply drink of a heavenly brew.
God's blessed love will there renew.
Oh praise His holy name!*

TAKE TIME TO THINK

~Anon

Take time to think...
thoughts are the source of power.
Take time to play...
play is the secret of perpetual youth
Take time to read...
reading is the fountain of wisdom
Take time to pray...
prayer is the greatest power on earth
Take time to love...
loving is what makes living worthwhile.
Take time to be friendly...
friendships give life a delicious flavor.
Take time to laugh...
laughter is the music of the soul
Take time to give...
any day of the year is too short for selfishness.
Take time to do your work well...
pride in your work, no matter what it is,
nourishes the ego and the spirit.
Take time to show appreciation...
'thanks' is the frosting on the cake of life.

Many Thanks

Many thanks to Betty Chatfield, who collects items for the Steeple Chimes Prayer Corner.



Weddings at First Presbyterian

Congratulations to Andrew and Anna Schweighardt, who were married on March 18 at our church, with Pastor Ann officiating. Proud parents include church member Rosalie and her husband Emery Schweighardt. Loving grandmother is church member Rosalie Wilson. Andrew and Anna live in Tennessee, but have promised they will be back to visit.



Wedding bells rang for Joseph Mazzola and Bianca Terilli Mazzola, who were married on April 18 at our church, with Pastor Ann officiating. The Mazzolas live locally, and are looking forward to visiting our church in the near future. Congratulations!



Worship at Our Church

April 2 was Palm Sunday. We celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palms, prayers, and song. The sermon was called, "Forgiveness: The Message of Palm Sunday." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

On April 9 we celebrated Christ's resurrection from the dead. The choir sang three anthems, and we had the traditional Flowering of the Cross. The sermon was titled, "He Is Risen! Eyewitnesses have told us!"

April 16, the Second Sunday of the Easter Season, is traditionally "Doubting Thomas Sunday." Actually, Thomas was a person of great faith. The sermon was, "The Thomas in All of Us."

April 23 was a special Sunday in the life of our church. We paid homage to the souls who were lost in the Holocaust. Rabbi Gadi Capela of Congregation Tifereth Israel in Greenport gave an excellent sermon, reminding us to never forget the atrocities of the 1940s.

April 30, we celebrated Earth Day with a Service called "Thanking God for the Gift of the Earth." Every day is Earth Day, and we need to be good stewards of this magnificent gift from God.

We called May 7 "Mix It Up Sunday." Pastor Ann played piano and organ, various lay persons led the Service, and Marian Adams gave a heartfelt and moving testimony of faith called "God's Miracles." Communion was celebrated.

Upcoming

May 14: Mother's Day. We will honor and remember those special women in our life.

May 21: We will unpack Jesus' desire "That They May Be One."

May 28: This will be a blended Service – Pentecost and Memorial Day. John Eyre will return as our guest organist.

June 4: Trinity Sunday. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

June 11: We'll explore what it means to follow Jesus.



Our indoor yard sales have been quite popular with vendors and with the community. Our next one is scheduled for Saturday, June 10. Tables are \$35 each. Please see Larry Foray if you are interested.

Do you have items you want to get rid of, but don't want to do a yard sale? Just drop them off downstairs in room # 1, and we'll sell them at our September Church Fair.



A Student Recital

Leonora Knight, our Music Director, is grateful for the way our congregation has embraced her, and to show her appreciation, she invited us to a recital by her piano and voice students on April 23. We were delighted to host this recital in our Sanctuary, and even more delighted to have these students and their parents with us. We are looking forward to another recital next year by these charming and talented young people.



Holocaust Memorial Service

On April 23, we observed Holocaust Memorial Sunday, and lit candles in memory of the victims of that atrocity. Rabbi Gadi Capela, Co-Founder of Project-Genesis Interfaith and Rabbi of Congregation Tifereth Israel in Greenport, was our guest speaker.

No one knows how many people perished during the Holocaust years, especially if one takes into account those who died of sickness and starvation.

Of all those who died at the hands of the Nazis, it was the Jews who lost the most. It is estimated that there were 18 million Jews in the world in 1930. By 1945, there were 12 million. Even now, several generations later, the Jewish population of the world has only recovered to about 14 million.



We owe a debt of gratitude to our Jewish brothers and sisters for keeping the world's awareness of the Holocaust alive, by commemorating such events as Kristallnacht, and including remembrances like Yom HaShoah in their calendar. Without their efforts, the Holocaust might have been reduced to just a couple of paragraphs in a history book. May that never happen!

Traditionally, the number is 12 million people who perished in the Holocaust, but we now believe that the number is closer to 18 million. Only God knows how many people perished.

- 6 million Jews.
- 5 million Soviet citizens.
- 3.3 million Soviet POWs.
- 2 million Polish citizens.
- 1 million Romani, also called Gypsies.
- 250,000 disabled persons.
- 200,000 Freemasons.
- 9,000 homosexuals.
- 5,000 Jehovah's Witnesses.
- 4,500 clergy.
- Thousands of political opponents.
- Thousands of "enemy" nationals.
- Hundreds of Africans and Asians.



On Saturday, May 20, we will hold a Health Fair in our CE Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have several health-related participants already signed up to staff tables: Huntington Hospital, Northport VA Medical Center, Alzheimers Association, Senior Helpers, Paul Goldhirsch (Long-term Care Insurance), Suffolk County Visiting Nurse Service, and the list keeps growing!

There will be coffee, snacks, and door prizes. Our CE Hall has a chair lift, and, as you know, there is plenty of parking.

Please help us to spread the word.



On May 7th, we mixed things up a bit. The Service was led by Barbara Charnews, Craig Satterlee, Liz and Bob Shrenker, Kathie Gerlach, Jim Dean, and Susan Perrotta. Pastor Ann played the piano and organ.



Marian Adams delivered a magnificent sermon, which was a testimony of how her faith in God got her through difficult times in her life. She never saw the “glass” as being empty. Instead, she looked for the works of God in every situation, and celebrated them as “God’s Miracles.” The

entire congregation was moved by her words, and we thank her for her testimony of faith.

Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean
Kathie Gerlach
Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss



My wife never complained ... until I got hearing aids!

Sadly, I do most of my proofreading after I hit sned.

Not to brag or anything, but I can forget what I’m doing while I’m doing it.

When you’re a child, you want to be a teenager. When you’re a teenager, you want to be an adult. When you’re an adult, you want to be a cat.

How are y’all’s summer bodies coming along? Mine’s looking like I have a great personality.

I’m giving up eating chocolate for a month. Sorry, bad punctuation. I’m giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

You know, not everyone thinks of Cleopatra as beautiful. But that’s how Julius Caesar.

The reason I’m old and wise is because God protected me when I was young and stupid.

Not to brag, but I just went into another room and actually remembered why I went in there. It was the bathroom, but still ...

A Toxic Trait: Not letting anyone else clean, because it’s not clean unless I clean it. Then getting mad when no one helps me clean.

A New Refrigerator for our Church Kitchen

At their last meeting, Session approved a campaign to replace the commercial refrigerator in our kitchen. It was noisy, and used so much electricity that we couldn't keep it on all the time. When it was turned on, it took several hours to get the temperature down to 38 degrees.

This week, we got the news that the old refrigerator "bit the dust," so to speak.

We are looking at a stainless steel, energy efficient model, with French doors and a freezer underneath with an ice maker. The price is about \$1,600.

We are asking for contributions of any size, big or small, so we may buy a new refrigerator. ***An anonymous donor has offered to match the first \$800 that we raise!*** Anything that we raise above \$1,600 will go toward (1) the cost of a plumber to hook up the ice maker, and (2) fixing (or replacing) the small sink in the kitchen.

If you are interested in helping us purchase the new refrigerator, please fill out the form below. If you want to make your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, we will print the list of names, put the list in a frame, and hang it in the kitchen. What a great way to remember Mom or Grandma!

Thank you very much.

Your name: _____

Amount of gift: _____

In Memory of: _____

- Or -

In Honor of: _____

