



The Steeple Chimes

The E-Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
497 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn, NY 11740

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Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

December, 2022

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

We had a really good Thanksgiving this year.

I am one of five children. Up until recently, four of us always got together for Thanksgiving. But in the past few years, my siblings have become grandparents, and have started their own holiday traditions, which usually involve traveling to another state.

For us, Thanksgiving has become a toned-down celebration involving Bob, myself, and my son, Philip. But this year, my cousin Anita invited us to her house. "Why not?" I thought. "At least I won't have to cook!"

We had a blast! There were thirteen of us, including my friend Kathy Fitzgerald (who attends our church about once a month) and my cousin Jimmy Reams. (Remember his 9/11 sermon at our church? "Don't sweat the small stuff!")

Things change as we travel through life. Family situations are not always the same. Friends move away. Loved ones enter eternal life. It can be difficult to deal with change during the holiday season. We long to have things the way they used to be, but most of the time, that just can't happen.

We can find solace in the fact that the one thing that does not change is Jesus Christ and His love for us. Hebrews 13:8 tells us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." When life gets so complicated that we simply can't keep up, Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Redeemer, in the One to whom we can cling.

My prayers are with all of you this Christmas season, but especially with those of you who are dealing with change. Try to look upon your new situation not as a loss, but as an opportunity to experience a new blessing from God.

I thank God for the blessings God has given me through my association with you. Let me take this opportunity on behalf of Bob and myself, to wish you a Blessed Advent and a Joyous Christmas.

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 and Christmas Eve?

Now through December 25, inclusive, the **Meeting ID**: is **890 3017 6533**. The **Passcode**: is **380295**.

What are the Meeting IDs for the post-Christmas season?

January 1 through February 12, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is **810 6717 5509**. The **Passcode** is **757038**.

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

December 7 – John Rixon
December 16 – Thomas Dean
December 30 – Corinne Burdett

January 2 – Rosalie Wilson
January 21 – George Santos
January 22 – Betty Chatfield
January 25 – Linda Rixon
January 26 – Stephanie Horne



When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away?
Of course not! You change the batteries.

When people mess up or find themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside?
Of course not! You help them change their batteries.

Some need AA – Attention and Affection.
Some need AAA – Attention, Affection, and Acceptance.
Some need C – Compassion.
Some need D – Direction.

And if they still don’t seem to shine, simply sit with them quietly and share *your* light!



Prayer Corner

(Submitted by Betty Chatfield)

GIFTS TO JESUS

~Michael Dubina

If you would give a gift to Jesus –
give it to the poor of Earth;
If you would serve His love and missions—
serve by deeds of Christian worth;
If you would give Him gifts of comfort—
comfort others, with His grace;
If you would dry His tears of sorrow—
dry them on another’s face.

Every act of love and kindness
you bestow on one, in need,
Is a precious gift to Jesus
and a service in His creed.

Give of heart and hand and spirit
every gift you can afford
For in giving unto others—
you are giving to the Lord.



Lord of the loving heart, may mine be loving, too.
Lord of the gentle hands, may mine be gentle, too.
Lord of the willing feet, may mine be willing, too.
So may I grow more like you in all I say and do.

Amen



What Can I Give Him

~Christina Rossetti

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring him a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
But what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.

*“So, friends, take a firm stand, feet on the ground
and head high. Keep a tight grip
on what you were taught, whether in personal
conversation or by our letter.*

*May Jesus himself and God our Father, who
reached out in love and surprised you
with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a
fresh heart in you,
invigorate your work, enliven your speech.”*
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Msg



It has been said:

*What life means to us is determined not so much by
what life brings to us, as by the attitude we bring to
life; not so much by what happens to us as by our
reaction to what happens.*

~L Dunnington

It has been said:

*“I’m a very strong believer in listening and
learning from others.”
“You can disagree without being disagreeable.”
“Don’t be distracted by emotions like anger, envy,
resentment. These just zap energy and waste time.”*

~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

It has been said:

*There is so much good in the worst of us, And so
much bad in the best of us, that it ill becomes any of
us to find fault with the rest of us.*

~Anon

AN ADVENT BLESSING

May you be fully awake, for God’s salvation is
nearer to us now than when we became believers.

May you walk in the light of Christ and learn His
ways of peace.

May the Holy Spirit cast away the works of
darkness and clothe you with the armor of light.

And the blessing of our gracious God, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and enlighten
you, now and forever. Amen.



Ronald Lievendag

Ronald (Ron) Lievendag passed away peacefully on November 10, 2022, at the age of 87, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Flushing, NY, he was the son of the late Roland and Jean (Campbell) Lievendag. Ronald proudly served his country in the United States Army, where he was stationed in Germany.

Soon after he returned home, he married his wife of 61 years, Patricia Mae (McBride) Lievendag, until she passed away in 2020,

Ron was the proud owner of RHS INC Nuts and Bolts as well as Lievendag's Hardware & Mower in Medford, NY. He was also an active member of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn.

Outside of his wife and family, Ron enjoyed both listening to and recording music, often times referring to himself as a "sound engineer."

Surviving are his children: Ronald Lievendag, Jr. (Kim), Holly Giordano (Ralph), and Scott Lievendag (Jess). He is also survived by six grandchildren, his sister, Judy Carpenter, several nieces and nephews, and his dog, Charlie.

A Funeral Service will be held at The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn on Saturday, January 14, at 2:00 p.m., followed by light refreshments at the church.



November Worship at FPC Greenlawn

November 6, the sermon was titled "Questions for Jesus." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

November 13, the Stewardship Sermon was called, "A Cup of Coffee." Pastor Ann distributed specially made coffee cups with a photo of our church after the Service. After the Service, we enjoyed a Thanksgiving Dinner, organized by Debbie Eitel and prepared by Chef Gary Prentiss.

November 20 was Thanksgiving Sunday. The sermon, "A New Twist on an Old Tale," spoke of a mythical town where people became very selfish instead of being thankful.

November 27 was the First Sunday of Advent – Peace. Marian Adams and Meg Lawrence led the candle lighting liturgy. The sermon was titled "Being Heedful." Catarina Rosizzi, one of Leonora Knight's students, sang Mozart's *Alleluja*.



Join Us for Worship in December

December 4: Advent II – Peace. "Prepare for the Kingdom of Heaven." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated. One of Leonora Knight's students, Kaylee DiGregorio, will sing Leonard Bernstein's *A Simple Song*.

December 11: Advent III – Joy. The sermon is called, "What would Jesus Do?" One of Leonora Knight's students, Eabha Masciovecchio, will sing, "How Do I Love Thee?"

The rest of our December Services are explained in several articles on the next page.

Victorian Christmas Tea

Last year's Victorian Christmas Tea was such a success that we decided to repeat it this year.



Mark Saturday, December 3, at 1:00 p.m. on your calendar.

Chairperson Jill Wilson has announced that this year's Victorian Tea will be better than

ever! It will take place in our CE Hall. Tickets are available at the door for \$25. Hats are optional, and there will be several surprises for our guests.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Service will be held on Sunday, December 18, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, at 10:30 a.m.

This Service tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. It is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the Prophetic Books, and the Gospels, and is interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and other music.



The original format was based on an Order of Worship for Christmas Eve, 1880, in Cornwall, England. It is said that a key purpose of the Service at that time was to keep men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve!

The Service at FPC Greenlawn will be based on the one at *The King's College* in Cambridge, England, where the nine lessons are read by representatives of the congregation and of the local community. We are still looking for community members willing to read. Please see Pastor Ann if you can suggest anyone.

This will be a very inspiring Service of worship. Please plan to attend, and invite a friend!

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rather than holding the Fair in the hallway, we will hold it in our CE Hall, where there is a lot more room. We have a lot of brand-new gifts and Christmas decorations – something for everyone!

Mark your calendar, and bring a friend!



"Pot-Luck" Luncheon

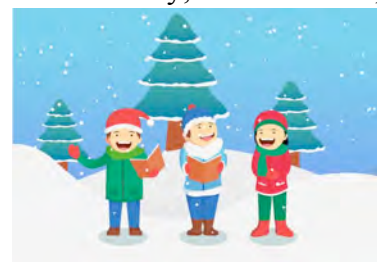
Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a special Service. We're going to have a special coffee hour that day as well: a Pot Luck Luncheon!

We're asking everyone to bring a dish to pass. This will be a splendid opportunity to enjoy each other's company during this Advent Season.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The Outdoor Christmas Tree that we purchased last year didn't do too well. Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, we now have a new one. It's about 5 feet tall; over the years, we will watch it grow into a majestic Christmas tree that will be enjoyed by all for generations to come.

Mark your calendar! On Sunday, December 18, at 5:00 p.m., we will have a special community event: we will light our new Christmas tree outside, sing some Christmas carols, and then come inside for some hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. Please plan to attend, and invite a friend.



Christmas Eve Service

We will have one Christmas Eve Service this year, at 7:00 p.m. It will be simulcast on Zoom, using the same log-on numbers that we use for our regular Sunday Services.

The Service will end with the traditional lighting of individual candles held by the congregation, while “Silent Night” is sung by those in attendance. We welcome everyone to this Service.



Christmas Poinsettias

We have ordered 40 poinsettias to decorate the Communion Table for December 18 and 24. They may be taken home after the 7:00 Service on Christmas Eve. There are still a few poinsettias available to dedicate in honor or in memory of a loved one. Order forms are attached to this edition of The Steeple Chimes. Thank you so much!



Memorial Fund Year-End Gifts

As the end of 2022 approaches, the Session would like to remind you that gifts to our Memorial Fund are welcomed.

The Memorial Fund was established by Session, whereby contributions may be made in memory of departed loved ones, given in lieu of floral tributes, or as a personal expression of love or friendship.

This fund is in addition to and separate from all Endowment Funds, which are used for bequests or gifts received in wills or trust accounts.

Contributions are deposited in a special account and are used, together with income earned, for special needs of the Church not provided for in the budget as may be determined by the Session.

Acknowledgment of each contribution is sent to the donor and to the family of the person in whose memory the gift is made. A permanent record is also made in our Book of Remembrance.

Worship on Christmas Day

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We will have a short Prayer Service on Zoom starting at 10:30 a.m. We will not have a Service in church that morning.

Meeting ID: 890 3017 6533

Passcode: 380295

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

Happy New Year!

New Years Day falls on a Sunday, and we WILL be worshipping in our Sanctuary that day.

Being most of us don't stay up to watch the festivities in Times Square, we will have our own festivities during coffee hour, including noisemakers,



hats, and a countdown to “New Years plus Twelve” at noon.

We'll have appetizers on hand, as well as come non-alcoholic “bubbly.”

Reminders for the Holidays

- If someone calls and says “Hi, Grandma,” don't address him by name. It's a scammer asking for money.
- Your Pastor will NEVER ask you for money or gift cards!
- If someone calls and asks, “Can you hear me?” Never say “yes.” Hang up.
- Social Security and Medicare will never call you. They will send you a letter.
- If “Amazon” calls to ask if you have charged something to your account, just go on line and check your account yourself.

Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2022

Diane Kirchhoff

Gary Prentiss

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean

Kathie Gerlach

Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel

Larry Foray

Susan Perrotta



Laughter is the Best Medicine

On the first day, God created the cat.

On the second day, God created humankind to serve the cat.

On the third day, God created tuna, mice, and all the animals of the Earth to serve as potential food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so humans could labor for the good of the cat.

On the fifth day, God created the ball of yarn, the feather thingie on a string, and the catnip mouse so that the cat may or may not be amused.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep cats healthy and humans broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but the cat woke him up at 5 a.m.

Whenever I try to eat healthy, a chocolate bar looks at me and snickers!

If a cookie falls on the floor and you pick it up, that's a squat. Right?

I've reached that age where my brain goes from "You probably shouldn't say that," to "What the heck. Let's see what happens."

WEBSITE: We use cookies to improve performance.

ME: Same.

Breaking news: Today, I used a piece of wood that I kept in my garage since 2006 in case I might need it!

I woke up this morning determined to eat right, exercise, and get a lot of stuff done. That was several hours ago when I was a lot younger and full of high hopes.

I'm trying to come up with a good UPS joke. I think I need to work on the delivery.

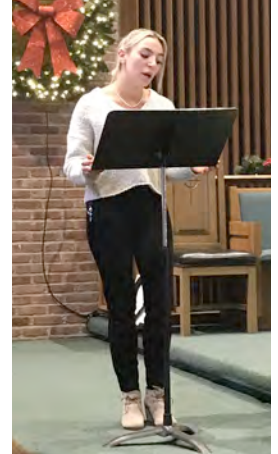
Note to self: Do not sit on the floor without a plan on how to get back up.

Soloists at FPC Greenlawn

Our Worship Accompanist, Leonora Knight, maintains a private studio in her home, where she teaches voice, piano, music theory, and sight singing.

During the first three Sundays of Advent, we are blessed to have three of Leonora's students sing for us during the Service of Worship.

On November 21, we welcomed Catarina Rosizzi, a freshman at Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL who is majoring in special education. Home on Thanksgiving break, Catarina sang Mozart's *Alleluja*.



December 4, our soloist will be Kaylee DiGregorio, a sophomore at Commack High School. In addition to studying voice, she is studying piano and music theory. She loves singing karaoke on her cruise ship family vacations. Kaylee will be singing *A Simple Song* from Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*.

Our soloist on December 11 will be Eabha Masciovecchio, a senior at Commack High School. Eabha has participated in SCMEA and NYSCAME All-County Choirs, and was selected to perform in this year's All-State Choir in Rochester. She hopes to pursue a career in music. Eabha will sing *How Do I Love Thee* by Penny Rodriguez.

Thank you, Leonora, for having your students share their musical gifts with us!

(Pictured above: Catarina Rosizzi)

150th Anniversary Luncheon at Moose Lodge October 23, 2022

One of the highlights of our 150th Anniversary Celebration was having Betty Chatfield read some memories that she had collected from members of our church. Here is what she read:

Good afternoon. I'm here to speak about 'Remembrances', both mine and those of some of our 'older members'. Please know I didn't have opportunity to speak to everyone for one reason or another. And bear in mind there was a lot said to me, and I just pray I can adequately remember all, and do justice to their stories. We may have to do

this again since I've only tapped the surface...and probably to correct any of my errors.

I'll start with **Helen Kozlowski**, who has been a member 79 year and can't be here. She is one of the nicest people I know and is very independent. She used to come, walking to church, rain or shine for years from several blocks away. She remembers helping out at the Church Fairs and in the church office. Helen wishes us all well.

Barbara Small, who was looking forward to being here, has been a member since she was confirmed about 65 years ago. She says, "I loved Sunday School; I enjoyed all the dinners the church had like the Mother's Day Breakfasts and especially the more recent Lenten Soup Suppers" (*where Barbara always helped out calling people from Paumanock Village to remind them when to come and also bringing Wonton Soup to share*).

Barbara continued. "I loved the songs the Youth Group would perform for our congregation, and I loved helping out and babysitting all the little kids while their parents were in church. I loved the Bell Choir where Audrey McMahon and Arlissa Dean played. I loved keeping the grounds of church nice raking, planting flowers then watering them. (*Barbara was a Deacon; served on different committees especially Building & Grounds. She and Nancy MacIntyre planted so many flowers around the church for so many years, it's a wonder their thumbs didn't permanently turn green*).

Barbara ends by saying "We were always a small church but always with a lot of talented and loving people."

Bob & Carol Eitel have been members for more than 50 years. They said, "Our kids were baptized with Rev. Flanders." Bob said, "We remember Dottie Harris who was our kids' Sunday School Teacher. We both remember Rosalie Schweighardt and especially all those people that sat around us at church. It's so wonderful to see Rosalie and her mom, Rosalie Wilson, coming back to our church." (*Bob has been on Building & Grounds committee for years & both have helped oversee Coffee hour. Unfortunately, the Eitels couldn't be here as he is still recovering...but we all know & remember their kids, Debbie, Linda, and Janice, and all that they do and have done for FPCG*).

Nancy MacIntyre has been a member for 55 years, and is here with daughter, Terry. She says, "I loved

the Living Nativity on the lawn with live animals; Mary rode a donkey, and our own Archangel was lit up on our roof with our youth group children playing little Cherubs. (*Our records indicate in the beginning the Living Nativity used to have 2 performances with approx. 800 people for both. We used Town benches that were set-up on our front lawn; police directing traffic with Debbie Eitel, Gary Prentiss, Jill Wilson, and others helping dress our members who played all the roles. It continued to be an outreach for our church for decades, finally moving inside.*)

She remembers that Pastor Mike Imperiale would have us singing while he played his guitar saying, "You don't always need to clap when we hear singing as our songs are our praises to the Lord." But she still claps sometimes. (*I too remember Michael Imperiale and his playing his guitar saying "I want you all to leave this church with a song in your heart & on your lips."*)

Nancy remembers helping out on Partners to Potential, a tutoring program for young children in our community led by Audrey McMahon with Gloria Arelt and others. She remembers we used to run Vacation Bible School every summer, not only with our members but children from the community as well, and we all had matching shirts. (*Arlissa Dean reported 69 children one year*)

She remembers our 130th church Anniversary when we had an 1872 Worship Service and a lot of us all dressed up in period pieces. Such fun seeing what people came up with wearing. And she remembers fondly Pastor Bob Duncan...he was memorable. (*I too remember Bob Duncan who was the first person to ask me to speak from the pulpit. Something I had never wanted to do. However, Pastor Bob reminded me of my Irish grandfather, who was also a pastor, so I thought I HAD to say yes. So here I am. Thank you, Pastor Bob.*)

It's good to see Nancy and her daughter, Terry, from California here today.

Diane Hartmann joined around 1978, so she has been a member for 44 years. She says, "I was involved with Tres Dias, and met Pastor Albertson there and joined the church because I liked Pastor Albertson." (*Bill & I both remember Gary Albertson. He knocked on our door as we were painting it even before we moved in in 1980. He introduced himself & invited us to his new church. When we joined the new member class, we invited our new neighbors Jim & Arlene Craig to join with*

us. Jim later became our Treasurer and COS, and Arlene became a deacon & both our good friends.)

Diane continued. "I liked being useful and helpful...especially as Clerk of Session." (I remember when Diane was moderator of the Deacons, and had the Deacons put on a number of special services for the church...she really made us work.)

Corinne Burdette has been a member since her kids were in Sunday school about 68 years ago. She's here with two of her daughters. She loved going to church and being with the people. She remembers Pastor Flanders and remembers one minister in particular as she had you come to the back of the church and she prayed with you. It was so moving she said, "I became a born-again Christian then. I swear I believe I started speaking in tongues but I don't do that anymore." (I remember Corinne always driving Maria Francis-Henry, her fellow Deacon, for meetings and Sunday Church. She was always ready to help out.) It's good to see Corinne and her daughter here with us today.

Geri Milk has been a member for 47 years. Geri says, "The first time we attended Greenlawn, after trying other churches we (her husband Herman) both immediately felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. We saw people greeting and hugging each other after the service, and we felt at home. We remember getting closer to the people we were sitting with, too. It was then that I felt I heard a voice saying: 'This is where You belong.'"

She says, "I remember the New Member Classes with Pastor Bob Geyer and the friends we met there. Of course, we both remember Pastor Gary Albertson. He was special. I remember the Spooners Program that Meg Lawrence led where we'd bring meals to members of the congregation during a difficult time or an illness."

(I too remember the fine cooks and bakers we've had through the years and the many that contributed such tasty recipes and idea tips to several Greenlawn Cook Books that encouraged us all to have family meals together, virtually saying there is "Nothin' as lovin' as something from the oven." Bill and my family still enjoy a lot of these recipes to this day.)

Geri remembers Couples Club and Lenten Soup Suppers, and Herman with his "special bread knife." (I too remember Herman in the kitchen

overseeing the cutting of those wonderful loaves of homemade bread. Everyone at the time had a bread machine, but I was squishing the bread when I cut it so I got an animated cutting lesson that day from Herman that I've used successfully my whole life).

Geri continues: "While Herman was a Deacon, I only served as Superintendent of Sunday School for 20 years, setting up balloons for Rally Day, and calling children and their parents for all the Easter and Christmas events that were held. I had a lot more help after Herman passed. (I remember all the needlepoint Crosses Geri made selling them at church events...even at the hospital when she had to go...turning all the money over to the church...to this day. Such a blessing! Good to see Geri here.

Mildred Bachmann has been a member for 67 years. She is sorry she can't be with us today and sends her greetings. (Mildred served on a special finance team when she could. A very gracious woman, someone who always had a smile on her face; you could always count on her.

Bob & Gloria Arelt have both been members for 41 years. They said, "The most enjoyable time for us was teaching Sunday school. We followed our youngest child, Tom, up through his 4th grade. And we both enjoyed serving on Committees, sharing time, and getting to know other folks.

(I remember Bob as head of B&G forever, as well as Personnel; you could always find him fixing something around the church. Gloria was always active too, in prayer groups and church circles.) It's good to see Bob & Gloria here with us today.

Ruth Satterlee has been a member for 55 years. Ruth says: I loved the times when my kids were Christened and Confirmed. I've always loved it when the hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth" was sung. (We all liked it when Grandma Ruth was able to bring her grandchildren, Parker & Payton, to church, and now love that her son Craig is so active in church too).

Pat & Ron Lievendag Pat had been a member for over 50 years. She was our Church Secretary and eventually led the Children's Choir. Eventually Ron joined, too, and proved to be so helpful, especially with our sound equipment.

Betty & Bill Chatfield Bill said, "We've only been members for about 40 years." This is some of what I remember starting back in the late 90's.

I remember Hank Bugden chaired Finance, and wrote our manual to cover every facet of our church to explain what needs to be done and how to do it.

What I really remember was back in 1999 when everyone was awaiting the start of the New Millennium. I'd been asked to be an Elder for a while. I still hadn't said yes but when the Hank Bugdens moved from #5 Carrol Place, just down the block from I live, and the fact that he had just one year left on his term to fill, I felt God was truly knocking on my door, so I had to say yes. (Thank you, Henry, and good to see daughter Gail here today).

I remember Bob Brant starting the Flowering of the Cross at Easter time. We remember with joy our kids and grandkids putting flowers on the Easter Cross.

We remember going to a dinner Christmas Eve with our kids then all enjoying the beautiful Midnight Service.

I remember weekend spiritual retreats, especially one where we learned the Fruits of the Spirit among other blessed things.

I remember all the special music our church has had. We are so blessed to have such beautiful acoustics at Greenlawn. We've enjoyed special music every Sunday under the direction of so many special musical directors. We've been blessed with many special performances; opera arias, American standards; our own choir, and other church choirs coming here to perform. I remember one Harlem Choir particularly, and their stories of salvation. We've been gifted with the musical talents of so many of our members, their children and friends, and our own SpiritLifters who started here with Bob Brant, and continues with our own Debbie Eitel delighting and inspiring so many.

I remember Maria Hottinger dragging me all over different places securing things for the church...especially the time we got sofas, chairs and carpets from Huntington Town House Catering Hall when they were closing. She was a dynamo and knew how to get things donated and delivered for free. Maria still joins us on Zoom on Sundays.

Bill remembers Good Friday Services and the renewing of our vows, 25th Wedding Anniversary, along with many of our members. by Pastor Albertson.

I remember summer BBQ's and Strawberry Festivals where Rolf Walter and his daughter Margaret cooked out on our front lawn. These were open to the community, and all enjoyed.

I remember members no longer active in our church or moved, and friends who still support us as they honor the memory of their loved ones.

Ted Caskey continued to honor his parents Theodore & Lois Caskey when he planted the two dogwood trees on our front lawn and gifted us with Mums in honor of our 150th; Glen and Rory Shotwell who yearly honor their parents and extended family who helped start this church way back when: Herbert and Mabel Tilden; William and Ethel Wycoff; and Ruth Shotwell. David Hammer served on B&G like his dad before him; was head usher, and shaved his head periodically to support St. Baldrick's Day. David learned from Rolf Walter how to continue making and teaching us how to make the Lenten Palms into crosses. He still supports us long distance. Good to see David and his brother John here.

I'm eternally grateful for Pastor Fred Woodward, who was always very 'punning'. It was impressive how well he listened, always remembering things that were said, and everyone's name. From day one he encouraged all to feel free to ask him questions or comment on anything. This, together with his holding a weekly Bible Study in his study that was open to any, and all did help deepen my faith because I did ask questions and he did help answer them.

He helped celebrate the lives of many members who passed on. When he spoke, we got to know that person's life...finding out things that lead to the person we knew. He helped turn mourners into Christians really celebrating the life of the departed, reminding us we're not going to live forever and we need to make our lives count for something...at least that's how I take it.

I am and know we are all so grateful for Pastor Ann who came so quickly as Pastor Fred was leaving, and COVID struck just as quickly. We all learned to wear masks, wash hands and do ZOOM. Who would have thought so many technically challenged people would, could, and do Zoom? All thanks to God and Pastor Ann. She hasn't stopped helping Greenlawn. She has many musical talents; great teaching skills, and musical friends which she graciously shares. Ann has helped guide us through some very trying times always with joy and the gift of hope. She's inspired members to 'Step up and do the impossible, frequently by example. We love you Pastor Ann!

Claire Proctor has been a member since 1989 or 1990. Claire remembered and wrote something that so clearly shows how extending an invitation to your church can lead to so many great blessings. The Proctor family, (Claire, Paul, Bryan, and Eric) have helped the Greenlawn Church in so many ways over the years. They have indeed been a blessing to us all.

Claire wrote, “We bought our home from Ethel Schultz when we moved to Greenlawn. After the closing, she stopped by to pick up a lamp she had left on a timer while the house was being sold. As she was leaving, she said, “If you are looking for a church, I would love for you to come to my church. Sometime later, I decided to visit the FPCG. By that time, I had become good friends with my neighbors, Becky and Everett Dodge. They and Ethel made me and my family feel very welcome. In the years that followed, my sons went to Sunday School, participated in the Living Nativity, played music for special celebrations, went to HiYBi camp, were members of the Youth Group, fed the homeless, and were Baptized and Confirmed. So many good people here taught them how to be good Christians. A simple invitation became a wonderful gift that has blessed my family. **Every good and perfect gift is from above... James1:17**”

(Thank you Claire & Thank you Ethel Schultz)

I'd like to say Thank You to all our past and present faithful servants, saints, sinners and friends who helped build our church, build our faith, strengthen our family and our community as well. And Thank You to our past and present Ministers and Pastors who have helped us not go astray.

As one of our past Pastors said...and now say to all here...and to all who helped Greenlawn Presbyterian though out these past 150 years...taking poetic liberties: ***“Let me...thank all those who counted, cooked, baked, cleaned, taught, read, set-up, took-down, drove, delivered, decorated, met, greeted, ushered, managed, fixed, called, visited---there are just not enough verbs to describe all of the actions in which you were all engaged as ministers in the church of Jesus Christ!”***

May Greenlawn Presbyterian continue always being a Bible-based church serving our members and community living our lives to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and looking forward to the next 150 years of service to our Lord.

Scenes from Our Anniversary Celebration

