

# The Bell Ringer

## Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

A Friendly Church; So When You Come — Bring a Friend

**APRIL 2018**



### Inside This Issue:

Pastor Meg's Column.....	1
Prayer Corner .....	2
Church Officers .....	2
Prayer Shawl Ministry .....	3
Stewardship-Budget News .	3
Thank You Luncheon.....	4
Women 4 Women .....	4
Church Brunch.....	5
News From the Pews .....	5
Christian Education Nes ....	6
Book Discussion .....	6
April Calendar .....	7
Worship Notes.....	8
Many Thanks .....	8
Storm Damage Picture .....	8
Next Bell Ringer Deadline .	8

### Pastoral Column

Pastor Meg Flannagan

A poem by Janet Morley:

When we are all despairing;  
when the world is full of grief;  
when we see no way ahead, and hope has gone away:

*Roll back the stone.*

Although we fear change;  
although we are not ready;  
although we'd rather weep and run away:

*Roll back the stone.*

Because we're coming with the women;  
because we hope where hope is vain;  
because you call us from the grave and show the way:

*Roll back the stone.*

The past weeks have been difficult for our Sweet Hollow. Between the winter storm damage, the burglary, and other significant conversations about our future, we have lamented and cried to the point of fatigue. I turned to the book of Lamentations and read, "The thought of my affliction is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:19-23)

While our hearts may be bowed down with us, remember that we have reason to hope. God's love never ceases. God's mercies are endless. Ultimately, this is not our church; this is the church of Jesus Christ, and we are God's beloved children. Let us pray that God will "roll back the stone," renewing our hope and life in the empty tomb.

## Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

### ***Easter Prayer for Renewal***

Lord, send me a surprise!

One that catches me off guard and makes me wonder, like Easter.

Send me a resurrection when everything looks dead and buried.

Send me light when the night seems too long and I feel I've lost my way.

Send me spring when the cold and frozen season seems endless; help me find joy in the lengthening days and signs of waking nature.

Send me an idea when my mind is empty; an idea I might share, an idea that might grow into an action for good!

Send me a thing to do when I am just waiting around; guide me toward those who need my care.

Send me peace when I'm afraid, remind me that You are always here walking beside me.

Send me a future when I am overwhelmed and all seems hopeless.

Send me out into the world to share your love, to find new friends and to rejoice in the light of your resurrection!

By the Rev Dr. Herbert Brokering, as adapted by Carol Keil

We pray for the Mowatt family as they celebrate the life and mourn the death of Niaja's aunt, Beulah Woods.

We pray for the Wingfield family as they celebrate the life and mourn the death of Patty's sister, Marcel Ann Benes.

We lift up prayers for Pastor Meg, our Church officers and the volunteers working together to resolve the challenges that have faced our Church this past month.

We give thanks that Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

### **Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow**

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

#### Elders:

Lynn Burke  
Ed Conroy  
Tim Mason  
Brian Schiffmacher  
Jim Sommermeyer  
Emily Wagner

#### Youth Elder:

Rebecca VanHouten

#### Deacons:

Jean Cavanaugh  
Bill Chamberlain  
Barbara Martin  
Frank Sansone  
Dan Schiffmacher  
Jason Wagner  
Marc Young

#### Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion	Sukey Walter
Christian Education	Lynn Burke
Church Brunch	Bill Walter
Fellowship & Outreach	
House & Property	Brian Schiffmacher
Mission	
Personnel	
Prayer Circle	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sukey Walter
Stewardship	Jim Sommermeyer
Women For Women	
Worship	
Youth Group	Pastor Meg Flannagan
Bell Ringer Editor	Bill Chamberlain
Church Historian	Bill Walter



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the parlor on Thursday, April 19 at 1 pm. In addition to knitting prayer shawls we will also be making baby blankets and lap robes for new mothers.

Come and join us if you can and if you can't knit, we can show you how.

Contact Sukey at [sukey1@me.com](mailto:sukey1@me.com) or Pastor Meg.

## Stewardship - Budget News

by Jim Sommeyer

Prepare ye the way of the Lord! We are navigating our way to the joy of Easter morning while we have witnessed the mighty power of God with recent series of Nor'easters. A tree has fallen into the Fellowship Hall, we have been burglarized, we are facing budget constraints and we are burned out. What we do next will illustrate our character. Will we live into joy or will we succumb to the perceived onslaught? Ways to live into joy: Give, Donate, Help, Volunteer. Does giving feel good because of its effect on our brains or on our souls? God only knows.

Thanks to God for everything good in our lives and thanks to the faithful flock of Sweet Hollow for your ongoing commitment. We wouldn't be the "Little Church with the Big Heart" without you and your time, talents, and treasures supporting all the good work we do.

From a budgetary standpoint the numbers are not encouraging. Fuel and snow removal expenses are higher than expected and income is lower than expected. Per Capita received is far below the amount that we are due to pay the Presbytery. However, we do have the prospect of several new renters and we have had an amazing number of folks keep giving and giving and giving.

I choose joy! How about you? I've heard about the year of living dangerously and the year of living biblically; let this be the year of living generously. Wondrous things are happening at Sweet Hollow! We have much to do and I know we can do it together if we trust in our faith and pray to God to show us the way.

## ***Thank You Luncheon For Centro Misionero***

by Maureen Sansone

Please join us for a "Thank You Luncheon" for Centro Misionero on Sunday, April 22 at 1:00 pm, to show our appreciation for their generosity and hard work in restoring and beautifying the floors of Sweet Hollow's Sanctuary.

We would like to offer a wide array of delicious food and desserts for this luncheon and would welcome donations from the wonderful cooks and bakers in our congregation. Whatever your specialty dish is, if you have a favorite dessert, appetizer, salad, etc., please let Maureen Sansone know by contacting her at 631-385-1855 or msansone@optonline.net. If you're not able to attend, we will still welcome your donations of food items.

We also seek assistance in setting up, shopping for tablecloths, paper goods, cleaning up, etc. Please contact Maureen Sansone as per the above information.

We look forward to a wonderful afternoon of shared food, fun and fellowship.

## **Women For Women (W4W) Events**

by Maureen Sansone

Women For Women (W4W) invites women ages 18 and older to join us for fun, creativity and Christian fellowship:

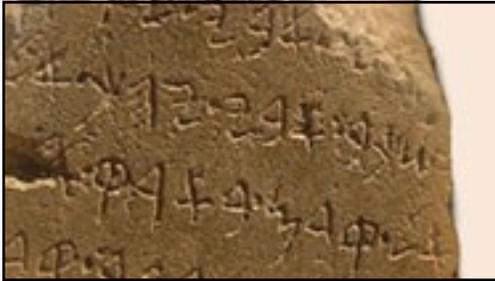
Our **Clay Nation Pottery Event**, which was originally scheduled for Sunday, March 18 at 12:30 pm, was cancelled, because unbeknownst to us, the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade was being held that same day. *We will be rescheduling this event for a Sunday in late April or during the month of May. Details to follow.*

Our **Scavenger Hunt**, which is developed and spearheaded by Melissa D'Angelo and always promises to be challenging, as well as lots of fun, is scheduled for Monday, April 2 at 7:00 pm. If you're interested in participating, please contact Maureen Sansone at 631-385-1855 or at msansone@optonline.net, or contact Melissa D'Angelo at Melissa.Dangelo@elliman.com.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Who Wrote The Jewish Bible? Our Church Brunch Topic on Tuesday, April 10

by Bill Walter



Who wrote the Jewish Bible, which became the Old Testament in our Bible? The common answer is that David wrote the first 5 books, which became the Torah. This cannot be true since at the end of Deuteronomy, the fifth book describes the death and burial of David. There are other difficulties with passages in these books. For example, in the accounts of Noah preparing for the flood: One set of verses states that he took a pair of every kind of animal into the ark, while another set of verses says that he took

seven pair of the clean animals and only two pair of the unclean animals. In one chapter, the Bible says the flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights, but in the next it says 150 days. To see if the floodwaters have subsided, Noah sends out a dove. But in the previous sentence he sends a raven.

We are going to watch a Nova DVD entitled “The Bible’s Buried Secrets.” Over 100 years of archeological excavations and centuries of biblical scholarship are summarized in an effort to answer some of the biggest questions in biblical studies. “Where did the ancient Israelites come from? Who wrote the Bible, when and why? How did the worship of one God emerge?” You will be amazed how much information has been found.

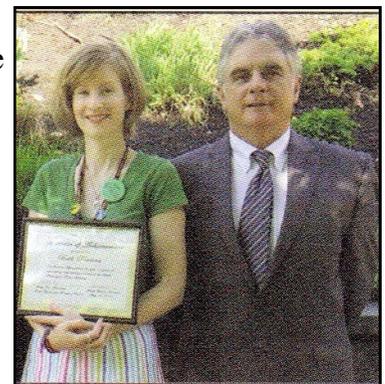
We will have some scrumptious goodies to go along with our usual freshly brewed coffee to provide an assortment of refreshments and fellowship. The brunch starts at 10:00 am and will run until 12:30 pm. Come join us. You’ll find a most needed warm break to help us move out of the cold, snowy, wintry season we’ve been having.

## News From The Pews

by Bill Walter

Sweet Hollow has learned that Beth Pereira has been named Head of the Youth Services Department at the South Huntington Library. Pictured to the right, Library Director Joe Latini presented Beth with a certificate thanking her for her over 15 years of service. Beth began her career at the Library as a part-time trainee in 2002. After receiving her MLS, she was promoted to full-time Children’s Librarian.

The Sweet Hollow Bell Ringer also adds its congratulations to Beth. Many Sweet Hollow members enjoy meeting Beth at the Children’s Section of the library. If you haven’t had this opportunity, do drop in with or without your children and allow Beth to show you around.

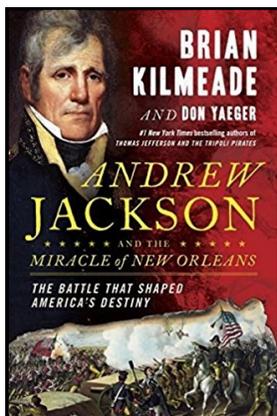


## Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

Our Sunday School program is continuing with the children meeting in church on the third Sunday of each month with at-home lessons the other weeks. The lessons can be found each week at [www.sweethollowpreby.org](http://www.sweethollowpreby.org) and click “Education & Fellowship.” The small room at the back of the Sanctuary is set up with simple crafts and activities for the children each week. During this month the lessons will be on the Resurrection Story.

We had a nice turnout on Palm Sunday. It was wonderful to see the Church filled with children. They all had a great time during the Easter Egg Hunt even though it had to be moved indoors.



## Book Discussion

by Sukey Walter

Our next book will be “Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans” by Brian Kilmeade.

This discussion was scheduled for March 22 but cancelled due to the snow storm. A new date will be set after discussion with the group.

# April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1 EASTER</b> 6:30 am Sunrise Service 10 am Worship	<b>2</b> 7 pm Women 4 Women (Scavenger Hunt)	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal April Fallon's Birthday	<b>4</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>5</b> Mary Reiser's Birthday	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Betty Perkins' Birthday
<b>8 10 am Worship</b> Courtney Schmitt's Birthday	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 am Church Brunch 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal T'an Phipps' Birthday	<b>11</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 10 am Worship</b>	<b>16</b> 7:30 pm Session	<b>17</b> 12:30 pm Presbytery Meeting at Bellmore 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Douglas Moder's Birthday	<b>18</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>19</b> 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>20</b> Audrey Livingstone's Birthday	<b>21</b> 8 am Outdoor Cleanup
<b>22 10 am Worship</b> 1 pm Thank You Luncheon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Barbara & Joe Moder's Anniversary
<b>29 10 am Worship</b> Gloria Sperry's Birthday	<b>30</b> Ryan Schiffmacher's Birthday					

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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Melville, NY 11747*

**Phone: 631-367-9249**



*We're on the Web!*

*www.sweethollowpresby.org*

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE  
for May Issue  
April 18**

**Worship Notes**

We will have a pulpit swap with the Presbyterian Church of Baldwin on Sunday, April 29. Come to worship and hear Pastor Meg's husband, Rev. Adam Fischer, lead worship!

**Many Thanks**

Many thanks for those who have helped keep Sweet Hollow in working order after the storm and burglary damage! We are particularly grateful to Ed Conroy, Joe Moder, Ray Moder, Frank Sansone, and Bill Von Brook.



**Would you like your Bellringer to go in color electronically thus saving us time and postage?  
Please contact the church office.**