

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

The congregational forum on Sunday, August 12, brought together a faithful group of members who love Sweet Hollow. They shared concerns about the Presbytery’s involvement with our congregation, ideas for raising commitment amongst our current membership, as well as ideas for conserving our remaining resources. No decisions were made, though several straw polls were taken. As church officers meet in the coming weeks, they will take that meeting and other informal conversations into consideration.

In his second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul noted that Timothy had been given a great treasure in his faith; his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, had both shared their faith with him. Paul then encouraged Timothy not to squander such a gift, but to “rekindle” his faith (2 Timothy 1:6). These words are perfectly suited for Sweet Hollow’s current situation. We have been given a great treasure in our faith; many saints have carried us through our church’s 189-year history: Sunday School teachers, church officers, pastors, musicians, and lots of worker bees. We must carefully tend the gifts they gave us. We must not let the embers of faith die, but rekindle the fire at Sweet Hollow. To fan the flames of faith, all members are encouraged to nurture their faith (through prayer, scripture reading, and other spiritual practices) as well as share our faith in word and deed.

One of the spiritual practices we will take up this fall is memorizing scripture. Each week in worship we will recite a particular verse: Micah 6:8 (September 9 – October 14), Psalm 19:14 (October 21 – November 25) , and Matthew 5:16 (December 2 – December 30). Incentives will be offered along the way for those who can recite the memory verse at random.

Another spiritual practice we will follow is that of service for others. Doing good works is a routine part of church life, though it may not be something we do in our private lives. September’s memory verse states, “What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.” We will, thus, be seeking ways that we can do justice and love kindness each day at home, work, and school. An extended calendar of service ideas is included in the newsletter (** see page 3 **). Please do this every day to the best of your ability, giving thanks to God for the invitation to service, while also praying that God would rekindle our faith through this service.

Thank you for your love and support of Sweet Hollow. See you in church!

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

As we head back to classrooms and resume schedules this month, we pray for renewed energy to face the challenges ahead. We pray our church leaders will be inspired and sustained by their faith in you, Lord, to lead our congregation with renewed vigor and vision in the year ahead.

The following excerpted comments on prayer is from First Presbyterian Church of Lexington, NC, website written by Rev. Dr. A. Lee Zehmer, in his remarks to the 2018 Confirmation class:

“Develop a Consistent Prayer Life: Do not let your prayer life just be a 911 call to God in moments when the oil runs out. Cultivate it, nourish it and practice the presence of God. Prayer is the chief exercise of our faith and it will sustain you in difficult times if you have done a good job of cultivating it as a practice in the regular times of life. Ultimately, prayer is not about asking for things, it is about cultivating a relationship with God which will sustain you through all the travels of life.”

Please join us as we continue to pray this month for Pastor Emeritus John Wallace and his family:

For John’s impending heart surgery.

For Judy’s continuing recovery from hip replacement.

For Jamie Wallace recovering from heart and kidney transplant surgery.

For Linda Wallace Grasso, recovering from Lyme disease.

We pray for the Sansone family in their efforts to support their parents and siblings suffering from health issues.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet again in the Fall, date to be determined. If you know of someone who needs a shawl, please contact either Sukey Walter at sukey1@me.com or Pastor Meg.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

Other Groups & Activities:

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

Book Discussion

Christian Education

Church Brunch

Fellowship & Outreach
& Mission

House & Property

Nominating Committee

Personnel

Prayer Circle

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Stewardship

Women For Women

Worship

Youth Group

Church Historian

Bell Ringer Editor

Sukey Walter

Lynn Burke

Bill Walter

Barbara Martin &
Maureen Sansone

Bill Von Brook

Jim Sommermeyer

Frank Sansone

Carol Keil

Sukey Walter

Jim Sommermeyer

Maureen Sansone &

Sukey Walter

Marc Young

Pastor Meg Flannagan

Bill Walter

Bill Chamberlain

Sweet Hollow Serves in September

These are specific ways that we can do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Switch specific tasks and days to match your lifestyle. If you want more ideas, google “simple service projects.”

September 9: Pick up litter on your street, in a nearby park, or at Sweet Hollow.

September 10: Eat something grown locally.

September 11: Email or write a letter to an elected official about a cause important to you. Use <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> to find their address.

September 12: Tell a family member, friend, or co-worker one reason you are thankful for them.

September 13: Carpool, ride your bike, or consolidate errands to minimize fuel usage.

September 14: Invite someone to church.

September 15: Leave a note or small surprise (cookie, candy, etc.) for your mail carrier.

September 16: Clean up a mess you made.

September 17: Write a positive review or recommendation for your favorite restaurant or store. Post online (Yelp, Google, etc.).

September 18: Prepare a meal from fresh ingredients. Avoid pre-packaged food for one day.

September 19: Smile and greet people who pass you.

September 20: Use reusable bags at the store. Make sure you have some in your car.

September 21: Offer to help a stranger today.

September 22: Set a timer for 5 minutes. Take a shorter shower to minimize water waste.

September 23: Substitute water for your preferred beverage at least once today.

September 24: Leave a generous tip for your restaurant server.

September 25: Don't complain about anything today.

September 26: Write or draw a positive note to leave anonymously in a public place for a stranger to find.

September 27: Donate a penny or a dollar to a charitable organization (or Sweet Hollow).

September 28: Let someone else go first.

September 29: Unload pumpkins at Sweet Hollow.

September 30: Unplug non-essential appliances and devices when you go to sleep.

October 1: Truly listen while someone talks to you.

October 2: Don't buy or throw away any plastic today.

October 3: Invite someone to come to church with you this Sunday, Oct. 7. Two other congregations will be joining us for World Communion Sunday. This is a perfect bring-a-friend Sunday!

October 4: Borrow something instead of buying it.

October 5: Exercise or stretch today.

October 6: Create a positive or happy pumpkin. Give it to a neighbor.

October 7: Care for someone who is sick – call them, share warm soup, or write a card.

October 8: Change a lightbulb to something more energy efficient.

October 9: Ask a church officer or committee leader if you can help with a project at church.

October 10: Donate one piece of clothing, toy, or canned good that you no longer want or need.

October 11: Make your favorite recipe for someone.

October 12: Don't judge anyone today.

October 13: Adjust the thermostat. Wear layers instead of turning up the heat.

October 14: Rake leaves for a neighbor.

Notes From Session

by Lynn Burke

The Session really wants to hear from the Congregation regarding the State of our Church and how you feel about Sweet Hollow. We are also encouraging everyone to come to worship on Sundays. The Deacons will be reaching out to all our members on the phone. Please let them know your feelings and answer their questions. We will rely on your answers as we move forward.

The Session has suspended the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee for three months as we await feedback from the Congregation.

The Session voted to begin conversation with local Presbyterian congregations about shared ministry or a potential merger.

Stewardship - Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

We will soon be discussing possible themes for the upcoming Stewardship season. If you have an idea, please submit it for consideration.

If you feel moved to give a Faith Testimony and have never done it before, please let me know. 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. This is a great way to share our faith journey with our extended church family.

Longer term, we must resume funding our major maintenance budget. We are now obtaining nearly half of our operating revenue from our property and one of the unintended consequences of more usage is that we also must spend more to maintain our property. Please prayerfully consider your current donation level.

Thanks be to God for the abundance he has given us. Joyful 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.

Fundraising At Sweet Hollow

by Maureen Sansone

Volunteers are needed to help organize and plan this year's fundraising events!

Several great ideas have already been presented. We need a larger group to decide exactly what we should do, then implement those projects.

We're focusing on "low impact" fundraisers that don't require overwhelming preparations or large groups of volunteers.

If you're interested in helping, or if you have additional ideas, please email or call Mickey Rogers at mickeyrogers74@gmail.com or 917-536-5787.

Mission Team

by Maureen Sansone

Welcome back everyone, from the lazy days of summer!

The **Sharing Bags** for the children at Tri CYA are up in the Sanctuary. We're collecting healthy snacks and school supplies. Please take a bag or two and return them to church by **Sunday, September 9** (Welcome Home Sunday), when they will be blessed. Please remember, the bags are also a guide in helping out with items. You may add to or bring in supplies or other snacks that you may have already purchased or feel are needed as well. We've even added pasta and sauce as a healthy snack, because Tri CYA has a full kitchen, so foods can be prepared for the children. We all know how hungry kids get after school.



Tri CYA has so many different areas for the children: in addition to a kitchen, there's a play area, game area, computers, and a quiet study/library area. There are all sorts of ways in which the needs of these children can be met. If shopping is too much and you'd like to donate a monetary amount instead, it will go towards milk, bread, etc. Checks can be made payable to Tri CYA.

Pumpkin Patch season will soon be upon us! Delivery is Saturday, September 29 at 3:00 pm. This is our church's prime opportunity to raise funds. Many hands are needed to help with the unloading. Tell your friends and your family! This is also a great way for high school students to earn their community service credits.

The Pumpkin Patch is open daily up through Wednesday, October 31. In addition to assisting with the unloading, there is a need for volunteers to sign up for Pumpkin Patch shifts and to donate baked goods, which last year, thanks to the generosity and talents of Carol Keil and Sukey Walter, added 20 percent in revenue! We need even more support this year to make this successful.

Sign-Up Sheets will be out in the CEB Hall during Fellowship Time. The **weekday** times for the Pumpkin Patch are: 12:00 to 3:00 pm and 3:00 to 5:45 pm. The **weekend** times are: **Saturdays** —10:00 am to 1:00 pm; 1:00 to 3:30 pm and 3:30 to 6:00 pm. **Sundays** —11:00 am to 2:00 pm; 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Weekends are the days of greatest need, with two people per shift. We need help from everyone to support this annual tradition...bring a friend, bring a family member. Enjoy a beautiful fall afternoon while helping the church. Frank Sansone and Michelle Von Brook are co-coordinating this effort. You may reach either of them as follows: **Frank - sansfra87@gmail.com; Michelle - michellevb@gmail.com.** Thank you everyone, for your prayerful support.

Women For Women's First Potluck & Planning Meeting to Be Held on Monday, October 1

by Maureen Sansone

Women for Women (W4W) will be holding its first meeting of the season, our "Potluck and Planning Meeting," on Monday, October 1, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Each attendee is asked to bring a potluck dish to share, as we bounce ideas around to determine our schedule of events for the upcoming year.

We'll once again invite the Women's Group from Old First Presbyterian to join us, as we look forward to spending quality time together in Christian fellowship.

Hope to see you there!



Pumpkin Patch

by Frank Sansone



Saturday, September 29 at 3:00 pm is our time to unload our portion of pumpkins for our patch. If it goes as planned, the Pumpkin Patch will be stocked and open for business on Sunday at 11:00 am. The Patch will be open each day until Wednesday, October 31.

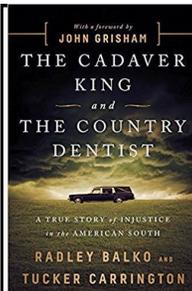
The Pumpkin Patch is our opportunity to raise funds for our church. It continues because of our congregation's history of supporting the Patch by unloading, manning a day shift in the Patch and donating baked items such as wrapped cookies or small pies or cakes, which last year added an additional 20 percent in revenue, many prepared and donated by Sukey Walter and Carol Keil. We need even more support this year to make this successful. Please give your time to the Patch in October; sign-up sheets are out in the CEB hall during Fellowship Time.

The **weekday** times for the Patch are: 12:00 - 3:00 pm and 3:00 - 5:45 pm.

Weekends are: **Saturdays** —10:00 am -1:00 pm, 1:00 - 3:30 pm & 3:30 - 6:00 pm;

Sundays —11:00 am - 2:00 pm, 2:00 - 4:00 pm & 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Weekly updates for staffing needs will be sent out to those on PCSH/Secretary emails starting the second week of September and weekly until the end of October. If you would like to reserve a shift or will be supplying baked good items, please contact Michelle Von Brook or Frank Sansone. The email contacts are michellevb@gmail.com and sansfra87@gmail.com.



Book Discussion

Book Discussion reads The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist by Radley Balko and Tucker Carrington as their summer read. We will meet on Thursday, September 20 at 1:30 pm in the parlor.

World Communion Day Special Coffee Hour

by Maureen Sansone

On Sunday, October 7, World Communion Day, we will be joined in a special worship service by the congregations which share our space.

Afterwards, there will be a special coffee hour, to continue the theme of sharing God's gifts together.

Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up for the coffee hour, as well as bringing in bagels with cream cheese and butter, fruit salad, croissants, baked goods, etc. We'll also need assistance in cleaning up afterwards.

Anyone who's able to assist and/or would like to donate food items, please contact Maureen Sansone by e-mail or phone, at msansone@optonline.net, or 631-385-1855.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SWEET HOLLOW HISTORY

by William T. Walter

Don Krams has carried out some recovering in the historic Ketcham cemetery, which is located about 200 feet northeast of our open field. Some 28 to 30 Ketchams are buried here including Zophar Ketcham, aged 91, who was buried in 1837. Zophar was a man of some education, a conscientious citizen, who signed the Articles of Association demonstrating his support of the Revolution, and was given to writing verses. On the 23rd day of May in 1830, having been blind for 7 years and 10 months, Zophar composed a poem of 30 stanzas "Lines on the erection of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, A.D. 1829." Zophar's lines have been preserved because a 14-year old boy, Conklin Baylis, wrote them in his blank book. Conklin became a 'Methodist Local Preacher' helping in the erection of **the church known for a long time as the Little White Church in the Wildwood** or the Jesus Saves church. Twenty of Zophar's stanzas are reprinted below.



The people of a certain place,
Who had a hard and tiresome case,
To go so great a length of road,
To pay their worship to the Lord.

Thro' winter's cold and summer's heat,
With shivering limbs and pain and sweat,
They did desire some better way
To spend the holy Sabbath Day.

If they a house of worship near,
Could build in less pain, it might appear
Much lighter then, than it would seem
For both the people and their team.

And suddenly did start,
To see who'd join and do their part,
They all did willingly incline,
With heart and hand together join.

So they conclude, with one accord,
A house of worship for the Lord
To build, so then a plan was laid,
And for a church agreement made.

With cheerful eyes to work they went
But met a hind'ring accident,
A sudden and a mournful stroke-
One main hand got his ankle broke.

That put them into such a fright,
Though if their cause was just and right
And thus begun, it would not do,
To let the business all drop through.

So some did laugh, and some did scorn,
And some did say 'twas all forlorn;
They sat down to count the cost
And so their labor would be lost.

We think the cause was good and just
And in the Lord we'll put our trust;
A bad beginning, who can tell,
May end for good-and all be well.

So then to work they went again
Their enterprise for to retain;
Materials they soon did collect,
As soon as any could expect.

The house was framed-foundation laid,
And for a raising ready made;
In eighteen hundred twenty-nine,
The men together, did combine.

One afternoon on Saturday
They raised the house the ninth of May,
And on the twenty-fifth of May
'Twas arranged in a decent way.

The Reverend Mr. John Goldsmith,
Upon a subject preached therewith:
Here on this rock we'll build our church
And nothing shall disturb it much.

God's word of truth shall never fail,
The gates of hell shall not prevail,
And on the sixteenth of July
'Twas dedicated solemnly.

So may he bless Sweet Hollow Church,
And add new members to it much,
That oft it may be handed down
To generations yet unborn.

Sweet Hollow Church 'tis called by name,
Sweet Hollow now is in great fame.
A church was built without a steeple
By a village small and happy people.

Now they can meet both day and night
And pay their worship with delight;
The sun by day to give us light
And burning lamps to shine at night.

Who here may preach the sacred truth,
To aged, middle-aged and youth,
And give to each and every one
In proper time a due portion.

Now what can be desired more
From God's most holy store?
So we conclude with one accord,
Happy people whom God's the Lord.

Then let's serve Him with fear and love
Who send such blessings from above,
And that his grace may long remain,
Here let the people say Amen.

Public Safety Awareness

The Suffolk County Police Department held several community meetings for local faith leaders this year. In cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the New York State Police, the Port Authority, and other law enforcement organizations, they are working to ensure that all citizens learn better public safety practices. School children are now taught survival techniques for active crises, just as they have been taught fire safety and drug awareness for decades. Adults, however, are not exposed to the same information; thus, officials have asked churches to host workshops and share some of the fundamental public safety strategies with members. Here are a few tips that every person should know:

You are more likely to have a medical crisis (heart attack or other) or be struck by lightning than you are to be involved in a mass casualty or active shooter event.

Most incidents occur in business/commerce settings (NOT schools or churches). Most end within 5-15 minutes, prior to arrival of law enforcement.

Wherever you work, shop, play, or spend time – know where the exits are. Pay attention to side and back doors, or windows that could be opened.

If you see something, say something. Trust your gut.

Lights and locked doors/windows are the best deterrent for crime. Expensive security systems may not be a good use of your time and money.

If you are caught in a violent situation, put **TIME** and **DISTANCE** between yourself and the attacker. Put obstacles between yourself and them that require time to work through. Move away from an attacker. Do not freeze or cower. **Never do nothing!**

Run, Hide, and Fight. (in that order) Run away as far and as fast as you can. Hide if you can't run any further. Fight as a last resort. Never do nothing!

God does not call us to live in fear. Do not let the world's bad news limit your activities. Remember instead that we are children of God, born in Christ's light. The world needs us to shine brightly. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) So as we live and hope for Christ's fullness to be made known, let us also pray for victims and violent offenders, that all may know God's peace.

Announcement

If you or a loved one are struggling with suicidal thoughts, please reach out to someone.

You are loved. Your presence makes a difference in the world. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255.

Pastor Meg is also glad to listen and pray with anyone. Please call the church office to speak with her or set up an appointment.

September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
210 am Worship 11:15 am Fundraising Meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8
910 am Worship 11:15 Homecoming Barbecue	10	11	12	13	14	15
1610 am Worship 11:15 am Congregational Forum	17	18	19	20	21	22
2310 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 11-6 Pumpkin Patch Sharon Krans' Birthday						

Beth & Nick Pereira's
and Sukey & Bill
Walter's Anniversaries

7:30 pm Choir
Rehearsal
Bob Earthy's Birthday

10 am Prayer Circle
Jill Conroy's and
Carol Mason's
Birthdays

1:30 pm Book
Discussion
Dylan Landkammer's
and Ayanna Williams'
Birthdays

Barbara Moder's
Birthday

3 pm Pumpkin
Delivery

10 am Prayer Circle
Kristen Conroy's
Birthday

10 am Prayer Circle
Rob Schmitt's
Birthday

7:30 pm Choir
Rehearsal
Iohnathan Bacchus' and
Caroline Martin's
Birthdays

Rev. Meg Flannagan's
Birthday

7:30 pm Choir
Rehearsal
Joanna Hoban &
Daniel Layer's
Anniversary

Office Closed

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

BELL RINGER DEADLINE

for October Issue

September 23

This Month's Memory Verse: Micah 6:8

"What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

Save The Date! Homecoming Sunday will be September 9

World Communion Sunday on October 7

Two other congregations will join us for worship. Bring a friend for the joyful celebration!

Dinner at the Diner with Discussion

The next Dinner at the Diner series will be October 3, 10, 17 and 24. Plan to join us!!

Bike Ride & Picnic September 23

First Presbyterian Church (Baldwin) invites Sweet Hollow to its annual bike ride and picnic at Bethpage State Park. On Sunday, September 23, they will leave the picnic area and bike south at 2 pm. Cyclists go at their own pace, with various groups traveling at different speeds. Some will stay in the picnic area, hosting supper at 4 pm. Bring a chair and join us for any or all of the fun!

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