

# The Bell Ringer

## Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

**FEBRUARY 2019**



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### *Pastoral Column*

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

An Epiphany fable:

The Queens came late, but the Queens were there  
 With gifts in their hands and crowns in their hair.  
 They'd come, these three, like the Kings, from far,  
 Following, yes, that guiding star.  
 They'd left their ladles, linens, looms,  
 Their children playing in nursery rooms,  
 And told their sitters: "Take charge! For this  
 Is a marvelous sight we must not miss!"  
 The Queens came late, but not too late  
 To see the animals small and great,  
 Feathered and furred, domestic and wild,  
 Gathered to gaze at a mother and child.  
 And rather than frankincense and myrrh  
 And gold for the babe, they brought for her  
 Who held him, a homespun gown of blue,  
 And chicken soup – with noodles, too –  
 And a lingering, lasting, cradle-song.  
 The Queens came late and stayed not long,  
 For their thoughts already were straining far  
 Past manger and mother and guiding star  
 And a child aglow as a morning sun –  
 Toward home and children and chores undone.

by Norma Farber (1909-1984)

from *When It Snowed That Night*

In this season of Epiphany (after Christmas and before Lent), take time to care for one another and neighbors, just as you would care for the young Jesus and his family. Share soup, shovel snow, call to check in, and lift up each other in loving prayer. The gifts of generosity and giving need not be restricted to Christmas.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. All are welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin that evening.

## Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

In this month of Valentine's Day I encourage you to read *The Power of Love: Sermons, Reflections, and Wisdom To Uplift and Inspire* by Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry.

If you were among the millions who watched the televised marriage of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle this past May, you heard Bishop Curry's sermon: *The Power of Love*.

His opening sentences referenced the Song of Solomon 8:6-7 "Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it." His following words referenced this Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quote: "We must discover the power of love, ... the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, ... we will make of this old world, a new world, for love is the only way."

With deepest thoughts of love we pray this month for those members of PCSH newly elected as Elders, Deacons and as members of the 2020 nominating committee. May they lead our congregation with Love, Wisdom and Energy.

We pray for those anticipating surgery: especially John Speed undergoing knee replacement on February 5.

We pray for those who are healing: especially Mal O'Connor and William Walter.

We pray for those who are homebound: reach out with a phone call or card.

We pray for those who celebrate: birthdays, new marriages, anniversaries, college acceptances. Best wishes to you all.

## Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

*The information below will be updated in next month's Bell Ringer*

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	Sukey Walter
Christian Education	Lynn Burke
Fellowship & Outreach & Mission	Barbara Martin & Maureen Sansone
House & Property	Bill Von Brook
Nominating Committee	Jim Sommermeyer
Personnel	Frank Sansone
Prayer Circle	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sukey Walter
Stewardship	Jim Sommermeyer
Women For Women	Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter
Worship	Marc Young
Youth Group	Pastor Meg Flannagan
Church Historian	Bill Walter
Bell Ringer Editor	Bill Chamberlain

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 18, for Presidents' Day.

## Stewardship - Budget February 2019

To all that have pledged and donated this year, thank you for your continued generosity! We wouldn't be the "Little Church with the Big Heart" without you and your time, talents and treasures supporting all the good work that we do!

During this year's Stewardship campaign, we asked our members to reflect on the many ways we can be generous. Your committee selected "Honor the Lord with all that you have" as our theme. When we honor the Lord with all that we have, we have faith that he will provide to us all that we truly need. When times are tough we must dig deeper and be more generous of our time, talents and treasures.

As of January 8, 2019, we have received a total of 38 pledges for a total of \$88,895.00, compared with 34 pledges for \$76,115.00, received last year. Praise the Lord! We received building use income of \$80,260.25 compared with \$62,592.05 last year. Praise the Lord! Together we raised \$8,716.87 via our fundraising events. Praise the Lord! We received donations from over 50 families last year of over \$90,000.00! Praise the Lord! Please consider required minimum distributions (RMD), endowments and other estate financial planning vehicles for Sweet Hollow.

We cannot begin to rest now, we must continue to be bold and spread the good news about Jesus; engage your family and friends in discussion about the joy of membership at Sweet Hollow. We are a small church with loyal members who have an opportunity to make a big difference if we do it together. Each one of us matters greatly here.

Your Stewardship – Budget Committee

Jim Sommenmeier (Chair), Lynn Burke, Jean Cavanagh, Tim Mason, Laura Fallon, Tracy Dein, Ed Conroy, Bob Earthy, Reverend Meg Flanagan

## Officers' Training

Church Officers will participate in training through the Presbytery on February 9 or 23. By sharing a leadership training with other congregations, we will be able to network and share ideas and best practices with neighboring Presbyterians. The new class of officers will be installed in worship on Sunday, February 24.

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

## Christian Education

by Lynn Burke

Sunday School will continue the lessons on the Epiphany and Young Jesus. The lessons will move onto Jesus starting his Ministry in mid-February.

As always, the Nursery is open with Sukey Walter as our Supervisor. The small room in the back of the sanctuary is also available with projects and crafts.

If anyone can volunteer as a teacher or room shepherd, please talk to Carol Keil or Lynn Burke. It will be much appreciated.

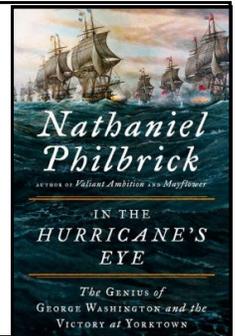
We look forward to seeing you and your children each month!

## Book Discussion

by Sukey Walter

Our next book club selection will be In The Hurricane's Eye, by Nathaniel Philbrick. The book is subtitled "The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown."

We will meet Thursday, March 14, in the Parlor at 1:30 pm.



## Women for Women (W4W)

by Maureen Sansone and Sukey Walter

Women for Women (W4W), which is open to all women over the age of 18 at Sweet Hollow, provides an opportunity to gather in fun, meaningful Christian fellowship. Events are held primarily on the first Monday of each month, from October through June.

Due to the busy holiday season and possible inclement weather at the beginning of the year, W4W did not meet in January.

**Our next event is Movie Night, which will be held on Monday, February 4.**

Following are our upcoming planned activities:

**Monday, March 4** - Games Night

**Monday, April 1** - Scavenger Hunt

**Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5** - Smithtown Retreat — Holmes Camp

**Monday, June 3** - Ladies High Tea

All planned activities are subject to cancellation/rescheduling due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

Looking forward to seeing you at one, a few, or all of our events!

## Mission Team News

by Maureen Sansone



**Souper Bowl of Caring:** We are excited to once again participate in the “Souper Bowl of Caring,” *beginning on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, and continuing up through February 28.* Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement started over 29 years ago, to fight hunger and poverty in communities around the time of the Souper Bowl championship football game. According to [feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org)’s hunger and poverty statistics, one in seven Americans face hunger every day. The Long Island Cares website cites that over 89,000

children face hunger on Long Island each day. Please bring in non-perishable items, baby formula, and diapers starting on February 3 and up through February 28. Monetary donations are also appreciated. *All proceeds will go to The Huntington Community Food Council.* Receptacles will be placed in convenient locations around our facility. Let’s transform lives with this celebration of giving!

**PB & J Sandwiches For Family Service League:** Sunday School will continue to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Family Service League the second Sunday of each month. *On Sunday, February 10,* we’ll prepare 40 lunches, with sandwiches, bottled water, fruit and a salty snack. If you’d like to make a monetary donation so that supplies may be purchased for this worthy mission, please see Frank Sansone or Lynn Burke.

**“Box of Giving”:** Please continue to consider donating items for our “Box of Giving” located in the breezeway. All non-perishable items are appreciated.

**Thank you all** for sharing God’s love with those in need.

## Personnel Information

**Did you know...?** Part of Pastor Meg’s job is to participate in the work of the Presbytery and the larger denomination. This necessitates time away from our church office to join committees elsewhere. Within the Presbytery of Long Island, Pastor Meg is involved in the planning of all Presbytery meetings (held quarterly), as well as an occasional worship leader for retreats and other events. Within the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Pastor Meg was on the advisory editorial board for our new *Book of Common Worship*. (Published in 2018, this book is the primary resource for Presbyterian worship services; it includes orders of worship, prayers, and scripture references.) She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, a national organization for people involved in worship, music, and the arts. These activities keep Pastor Meg and Sweet Hollow connected to staff and resources beyond our congregation. Talk to Pastor Meg if you’d like to hear more about her work.



## Do you know what to do if a friend or loved one is having a stroke?

A stroke occurs when blood flow is blocked in the brain. It could be caused by high blood pressure or for several other reasons. Stroke is a leading cause of death in the U.S. and it can also result in permanent disability. People sometimes have a stroke for hours or even days before it is discovered.

It is important to know the signs of a stroke: Seizures, headache, drooling, vision or speech problems, confusion, paralysis, and difficulty in breathing or swallowing are all common signs. One pupil may become larger than the other and the person may lose consciousness.

You could use some simple tests to help determine if a person is having a stroke:

1. Have the person smile.
2. Have the person speak a simple sentence.
3. Have the person raise his/her arms.
4. Have the person stick out his/her tongue. If the tongue appears crooked (it goes to one side), it could be a sign of a stroke.

If the person has difficulty with any of these tasks, he or she may be having a stroke. Here are some steps to follow.

First of all: Remain calm. You won't do your loved one any good if you panic.

Second: Call for help. Yell loudly or use a phone if there is one handy. Call 911 or have someone else call 911.

Third: Stay with the person. Be reassuring. Make sure he/she is seated or is lying down comfortably. If he/she is lying down but conscious, try to raise the head and shoulders slightly so he/she is comfortable.

Fourth: If person loses consciousness, help him/her to the floor: Stand behind the person and gently guide him/her down one of your legs. Lay the person on his/her back and tilt his/her head back to make sure the airway is open. Stretch the person's legs out so he/she is comfortable.

Fifth: If you know CPR, use it if necessary. If you don't know CPR, do not attempt it. You could do the person more harm than good.

Sixth: Cover the person so his/her body temperature remains normal.

Seventh: If the person has any paralyzed limbs, protect them. Prop them with pillows or blankets.

Eighth: Do not give the person any food or drink, to prevent choking. If there is a chance he/she may choke, roll him/her to one side.

By following these steps, you will go a long way to helping a stroke victim survive. Keep this list nearby and review them regularly.

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Souper Bowl of Caring runs all month!				
<b>3</b> 10 am Worship 11:15 am Fundraising Committee Meeting Jason Wagner's Birthday	<b>4</b> Women4Women goes to the movies	<b>5</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Adelyn Layer's Birthday	<b>8</b> Marc Young's Birthday	<b>9</b> 9 am Officers' Training at Presbytery Office
<b>10</b> 10 am Worship 10:30 am Sandwich Making for Family Service League	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Nikesha Phipps' Birthday	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10 am Worship Rev. Adam Fischer's Birthday	<b>18</b> Church Office Closed Lynn Burke's and Bea Reiser's Birthdays	<b>19</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>21</b> Natasha Bacchus' and Audra Schmitt's Birthdays	<b>22</b> Scott Manning's Birthday	<b>23</b> Kira Sansone's Birthday
<b>24</b> 10 am Worship & Officers' Installation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>28</b>		

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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We're on the Web!

[www.sweethollowpresby.org](http://www.sweethollowpresby.org)

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE**

**For March Issue**

**February 21**



by Carol Keil

Please help support the *Souper Bowl of Caring 2019* campaign **February 3-28**.

Each February since the 1990's, Sweet Hollow Church has joined with other churches and youth groups in our community to collect monetary donations, non-perishable foods, baby diapers and baby formula to aid the hungry and hurting families served by the Huntington Community Food Council.

Though *Souper Bowl of Caring* is a nation-wide event, all proceeds are collected to serve families in need in local communities where the donations are gathered.

The *Souper Bowl of Caring* movement began as an idea of the senior high youth group of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, in 1990, when they were inspired by this prayer offered by seminary intern Brad Smith: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since 1990, donations worth well over \$100 million dollars have been collected for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. Sweet Hollow Church is proud to carry on the *Souper Bowl of Caring* tradition!