

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

JUNE 2019



Inside This Issue:

Pastor Meg's Column	1
Prayer Corner.....	2
Church Officers	2
Wanted: New Clerk of Session	2
Stewardship — Budget	3
Christian Education.....	4
Project Hope	4
Thank You, Rachel and Barbara.....	5
Plant Sale Fundraiser.....	6
Mission Team News	6
Women For Women.....	7
Book Discussion	7
Abington Youth Choirs Visit	8
June Calendar	9
Strawberry Brunch	10
Dinner on the Grounds	10
Next Bell Ringer Deadline	10

Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

This train is bound for glory! Sweet Hollow is always looking down the track for where God will take us next – what activities will happen, what people will be needed, what people will we serve. We are currently planning fall programs (Christian Education and Fellowship), Stewardship and fundraising, and Advent/Christmas worship. As we do so, we are realizing several critical needs for volunteers. Can you help us with one of the following tasks?

Our annual **Pumpkin Patch** requires leadership. In the past, two or three people shared the general oversight. These folks send daily reports to the Pumpkin Patch farm, count income, confirm daily volunteers, and cover other details. Only one person has volunteered for leadership this coming fall. We cannot host the Pumpkin Patch without at least one more supervisory person. Although this has been announced in worship and discussed at congregational meetings, no one has volunteered to help. If this need remains much longer, the Session has decided to cancel our 2019 Pumpkin Patch.

Our current **Clerk of Session**, Lynn Burke, will complete her service in February 2020. Another volunteer is needed to train and transition so that they can confidently continue Lynn's good work. A Clerk of Session must be an Elder (currently serving or past) available to attend all Session and congregational meetings. A great Clerk is organized and competent in basic computer programming: word processing, email, etc. According to the *Book of Order* (the Presbyterian constitution) the Clerk is the secretary for both the Session and congregation; the Clerk records transactions, maintains attendance and the rolls, preserves the records, and serves as the official contact for other councils of the church (Presbytery, other congregations' committees, etc.).

Finally, any success we have had in children's **Sunday School** is due to Carol Keil's diligence. Despite numerous requests for more weekly volunteers (as teachers, helpers, and **nursery** volunteers), we do not have enough adult support. We need 4-5 regular volunteers to teach once a month (beginning September 8), as well as other occasional volunteers to serve as shepherds/helpers. All lesson plans and supplies are provided. Sunday School is a significant motivation for families with children.

Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in one of these capacities. The loss of any of these programs or positions would be detrimental to our congregational life. Although our congregation has a small membership, we have done great things together. Thank you for supporting our wee church.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor
Rachel Fogel, Choir Director
Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary
Tracy Dein, Treasurer

Elders:

Lynn Burke
Ed Conroy
Tim Mason
Jim Sommermeyer
Bill Von Brook

Deacons:

Jean Cavanaugh
Barbara Martin
Niaja Mowatt
Maureen Sansone
Dan Schiffmacher
Jason Wagner
Marc Young

Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion	Sukey Walter
Christian Education	Carol Keil
Fellowship & Outreach & Mission	Laura Fallon & Maureen Sansone
House & Property	Bill Von Brook
Personnel	Frank Sansone
Prayer Circle	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sukey Walter
Budget & Stewardship	Jim Sommermeyer
Women For Women	Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter
Worship	Joan Sommermeyer
Youth Group	Pastor Meg Flannagan
Church Historian	Bill Walter
Bell Ringer Editor	Bill Chamberlain

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

Please join us as we lift up prayers for the following:

Prayers of support for Donna Farahat as she mourns the death and celebrates the life of her mother Katherine Lacko.

Prayers of healing and support:

- For Carol Keil as she recovers from hip replacement surgery.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for Otto Keil's successful TAVR heart valve procedure.
- For Carol Schiffmacher as she pursues treatment for uterine cancer.
- For John Speed as he recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Continued prayers of caring and support for Fran and Bob Templeton.
- For John and Judy Wallace as John recovers from heart valve replacement and Judy recovers from breast surgery.

WANTED:

A new Clerk of Session.

Our current clerk, Lynn Burke, will complete her service this year. Another volunteer is needed to train and transition now so that they can confidently begin work next February. A Clerk of Session must be an Elder (currently serving or past) available to attend all Session and congregational meetings. A great Clerk is organized and competent in basic computer programming: word processing, email, etc. According to the *Book of Order* (the Presbyterian constitution) the Clerk is the secretary for both the Session and congregation; the Clerk records transactions, maintains attendance and the rolls, preserves the records, and serves as the official contact for other councils of the church (Presbytery, other congregations' committees, etc.).

Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in this capacity. If you have any questions, please contact me or our current Clerk of Session, Lynn Burke.

Stewardship — Budget

by Jim Sommermeyer

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!

Stewardship - our path to sustainability

The total of our campaign this year is 41 pledges for \$89,665. Praise the Lord! We'll begin our 2020 campaign in August. Please let me know if you would be interested in giving your Faith Testimony to the congregation this fall. It's a great way to let others know the story of you and help them gain perspective in their own Faith Journey.

Estate / Legacy Planning

Have you named the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow as a beneficiary in your will? A properly executed will enables you to sustain your support of Sweet Hollow even after your passing. Your bequest may be a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or a residual amount (after expenses and other bequests have been fulfilled). If you need assistance, Rich Burke has graciously offered his help with planning. We are extremely grateful for those who have done so already! We received a substantial gift recently and our committee is discerning the appropriate use for this gift to sustain Sweet Hollow.

Current Financial Status - End of April

We have income of \$74,251.68 and expenses of \$72,756.71 for a YTD total of (positive!) \$1,494.97. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Per Capita

We have received \$1,485.97 towards our responsibility of \$4,527.95. Per Capita continues to be an area that creates a large shortfall for Sweet Hollow on a yearly basis, even though it is approved as a budget expense and we derive a myriad of free services as a result of our association with the larger Presbyterian organizations. Did you know that The Presbyterian Foundation is helping to guide us in our path towards sustainability with Project Regeneration free of charge?

Facility Improvements

Work will start in the near future on replacing heating and A/C in the Little House (Parlor, Office, Nursery, Youth Group Room). This will eliminate the risk of our over 50-year-old boiler system failing us next winter. We have also expanded our WiFi connectivity to the CEB and installed a video doorbell system to increase security for our Child Care friends.

Facility news

Our Gathering of Light friends have left us as of May 31. We wish them much happiness and joy in their new location. Our Jessie Bee's Busy Bee Child Care plans an expansion in the use of our facility beginning in early fall. Please keep in mind when planning your family events that a benefit of Sweet Hollow membership is the ability to utilize PCSH space at a deep discount.

Discipleship/Membership

We are in need of a dedicated individual to serve as chair of our Outreach committee. We have many opportunities to engage the hundreds of people using our facilities on a weekly basis. We are grateful to our new members and their families as they commit to joining with us on their Faith Journey! We are called to discipleship, 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!

Stewardship – Budget Committee Chair, Jim Sommermeyer

Christian Education

by Carol Keil

Thank you to all the families whose faithful attendance made this a very rewarding Sunday School year! Special thanks to all who served as Leaders and Room Shepherds, we could not have Sunday without you. I won't list you individually for fear of leaving anyone off the list. But I want to offer special thanks to Sukey Walter for her dedication to serving in the Nursery each week.

This Sunday School season closes on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. As this is the second Sunday in June, we will be making the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and packing up bag lunches for the homeless. Please note: This gift of service will continue throughout the summer on Sunday, July 14, and Sunday, August 11.

Regular Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, September 9.

Children's Choir on Easter Sunday



Children's Sermon



Sweet Hollow Is Hosting Project Hope's Sunday Supper on June 9!!

by Maureen Sansone

Are you looking for ways to give back to the community? Wishing you could help those in need? Please prayerfully consider taking a "few plus" hours of your time for the following:

Sweet Hollow is hosting the Project H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) Sunday Supper at St. Hugh of Lincoln Church on Sunday, June 9. There are a variety of ways in which you can support this wonderful ministry: Baking or bringing cakes, cookies, bars, brownies, etc., setting up, greeting the attendees, serving food to the attendees (youth and adults are invited to do so), plating the food, serving soup, helping in the kitchen, assisting with clean up and security. There will be sign-up sheets during coffee hour, up through Sunday, June 9. Anyone who feels called to participate, please sign up during coffee hour, or contact Maureen Sansone at 631-385-1855 or msansone@optonline.net.

You will truly be making a difference...



Thank You

Ten Year Anniversary on
June 2, 2019

Rachel Fogel, Musician

and

Barbara Zimmerman,

Secretary

Thanks be to God
for 10 years of service at Sweet Hollow!

Mission Team News

by Maureen Sansone

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”-Galatians 6:2

These are the ways in which Sweet Hollow has shared or will share our gifts with others, transforming the lives of those in need:

PB & J Sandwiches for Family Service League — On Sunday, June 9, our Sunday School continues with this vibrant mission activity, held on the second Sunday of each month. Donations for supplies are welcomed. One additional parent volunteer is needed to supervise and assist.

Spring Clothing Drive — Many thanks to all those who donated their new and clean, gently used clothing and linens to benefit the United Veterans’ Beacon House.

Project H.O.P.E.’s Sunday Supper — Sweet Hollow is co-hosting the Sunday Supper at St. Hugh of Lincoln Church on June 9. Please see separate article for details.

“Box of Giving” — Please continue donating items for our “Box of Giving” located in the breezeway. All non-perishable items are appreciated, as well as diapers, baby formula and hygiene products. Special thanks to Jane Beller, for bringing these generous donations to the Huntington Community Food Council on a regular basis, and for her unwavering dedication to this mission.

Thank you all for your generosity of spirit!

2019 Sunday School Plant Sale took on a new look! It was a Plant Sale, Social....fellowship, fun, food and more



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 together in fun, meaningful Christian fellowship. Events are held primarily on the first Monday of each month, from October through June.

Our last event for this year:

Monday, June 3 — *The Ladies High Tea*, graciously hosted by Marcy Gordon at her home. In addition to assorted teas, there was delicious food and great conversation.

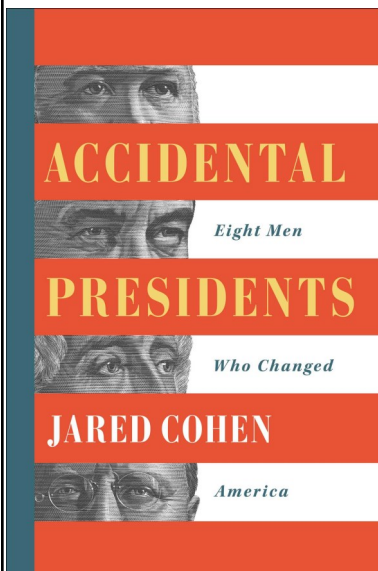
It's hard to believe another year of Women for Women (W4W) has passed. We truly enjoyed our time together. Thank you to all who planned, coordinated, and/or hosted an event.

We look forward to planning our 2019-2020 season at our first meeting in October, the ***Potluck and Planning Meeting***.

Have a wonderful summer!

Book Discussion

by Sukey Walter



We have decided to have our next meeting on September 19 at 1:30 pm.

The book to read over the summer is [The Accidental Presidents: Eight Men Who Changed America](#) by Jared Cohen.

Following is an excerpt from "About the Book" on the Simon & Schuster (the publisher's) website:

"The strength and prestige of the American presidency has waxed and waned since George Washington. *Accidental Presidents* looks at eight men who came to the office without being elected to it. It demonstrates how the character of the man in that powerful seat affects the nation and world."

"Eight men have succeeded to the presidency when the incumbent died in office. In one way or another they vastly changed our history. Only Theodore Roosevelt would have been elected in his own right. Only TR, Truman, Coolidge, and LBJ were re-elected."

Abington Presbyterian Church Youth Choirs Visited

Sweet Hollow hosted the Abington Presbyterian Church (metro Philly) youth choirs over the weekend of May 3-5. They stayed two overnights in our church.

Old First Presbyterian Church co-hosted a Saturday evening (May 4) concert. On Sunday, May 5, their Chapel Choir and Festive Ringers took part in Sweet Hollow's worship service.

These pictures were taken at Sweet Hollow Church's worship service and brunch.



June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>2 10 am Worship 11:15 am Strawberry Shortcake D.J. Krams and Joey Moder's Birthdays</p>	<p>3 7 pm Women's Women at Marcy Gordon's</p>	<p>4 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Beth Pereira's Birthday</p>	<p>5 10 am Prayer Circle Charlotte & Fred DeSanti's Anniversary</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 Steven Moder's Birthday</p>
<p>9 10 am Worship Last Sunday School 1 pm Project H.O.P.E.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Carol & Dan Schiffmacher's Anniversary</p>	<p>12 10 am Prayer Circle</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 10 am Worship</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 10 am Prayer Circle Jake Von Brook's Birthday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Michael DeSanti's Birthday</p>	<p>22 Evan Pereira's Birthday</p>
<p>23 10 am Worship 4:30 pm Church Picnic</p>	<p>24 7:30 pm Church Officers' Meeting Nikita Phipps' Birthday</p>	<p>25 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 11 am Presbytery Meeting at Center Moriches Joe Moder's Birthday</p>	<p>26 10 am Prayer Circle</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 10 am Worship</p>						

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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Melville, NY 11747*

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We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE
For July - August Issue
June 23**

Strawberry Brunch

Our annual strawberry celebration was held after worship on Sunday, June 2.



Dinner on the Grounds!

Bring your family, friends, and a picnic supper to our church grounds on Sunday, June 23 at 4:30 pm.

We will have a casual night together. Please bring whatever you need for an outdoor picnic – blankets, chairs, food and beverages.

Balls, outdoor entertainment, and great fellowship will be provided.

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