

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

MARCH 2019



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Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

This year brings specific changes in the way that Sweet Hollow governs itself and accomplishes ordinary business. Officer numbers were reduced to reflect our active membership. This eased the nominations process. It also necessitated general members (not serving as officers) to share committee leadership previously held by Elders and Deacons. All members are urged to support these teams so that no one is doing the work of the church alone. This is, after all, the work of the church.

- Budget & Stewardship – Jim Sommermeyer (Elder)
- Christian Education – Carol Keil + ONE MORE VOLUNTEER
NEEDED
- Fellowship, Outreach & Mission – Laura Fallon and Maureen
Sansone (Deacon)
- House & Property – Bill Von Brook (Elder)
- Personnel – Frank Sansone
- Worship – Joan Sommermeyer

One more significant need stands before us: 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.

See you in 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

“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”

Mother Theresa

As we prepare for this Lenten season Lord, we pray you will help us find the silence we yearn for, so we may hear you speaking and be moved to action in your Name.

Amen.

Please join us in prayers of joy as we celebrate the baptism of Kivrin Engel, daughter of Jenni and Michael Engel and receive Jenni, Willow and Kivrin into membership on Sunday, March 3.

Pastor Meg and Pastor Adam welcome our prayers of thanksgiving and the blessing of good health as they await the birth of Baby Fischer.

We lift up prayers for healing and comfort for:

Rob and Millie Schmitt as Rob recovers from hip replacement surgery.

Fran and Bob Templeton as Fran recovers from heart surgery.

John Speed, continuing to recover from knee replacement surgery.

**Ordination and Installation of Officers
 February 24, 2019**



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 Campaign

We asked our members to reflect on the many ways we can be generous. Our theme is "Honor the Lord with all that you have." 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 let's dig deeper and be more generous of our time, talents and treasures. As of February 20, we have received a total of 40 pledges for a total of \$89,625, compared with 34 pledges for \$76,115 received last year. Praise the Lord!

Current Financial Status

As of the end of January, we have received income of \$12,859.14 and have incurred expenses of \$12,930.18 for a yearly running total of -\$71.04. We have received \$608.57 towards Per Capita. Please consider making your donations towards the beginning of the year to help us with cashflow, as most of our fundraising activities are scheduled to occur in the second half of the year.

Non-Budgeted Facility Priorities - please contact me if you would like to help

- There is an immediate need for 10 new tables for the hall. We need eight-foot folding tables (same as classroom downstairs). They are available locally at wholesale clubs.
- Modernize steam heat system (servicing the Parlor, Pastor's office, office, nursery).
- Pave parking lot and driveway.

Facility news

Our Centro Misionero friends have generously donated 60 gently used chairs which will be used to replace the broken chairs in the hall. Our St. Francis Community friends will be leaving us at the end of April as their congregation has not grown and they have found a smaller worship space to move to. We are grateful for the fellowship that we have shared with these faith communities and all the groups who utilize Sweet Hollow.

Discipleship

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. 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.

For the Stewardship – Budget Committee,

Jim Sommermeyer (Chair)

How Can You Help with Fundraising at Sweet Hollow?

by Maureen Sansone

The Fundraising Committee held its first meeting on February 3, and Thanks Be To God, we were blessed with quite a well-attended, productive meeting! After discussing several wonderful ideas and concepts for Sweet Hollow's 2019 fundraising events, plans are underway to step up our fundraising efforts, both in small and large ways, through a variety of low impact fundraisers, as well as events on a bit of a larger scale.

We're chock full of several great project plans, such as our current Pot of Gold Loose Change Jar (a variation on our very successful "Change For Change" Jar), our upcoming California Pizza Kitchen Day, an exciting expansion of our May Plant Sale, and much more. Now we just need **YOU** to make a small commitment to our beloved church by volunteering to help organize and plan one of our fundraising events. These are just a few of the fun, enriching events which are planned. We'll keep you posted on future proposed events.

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

Thank you all for taking the time to make a positive impact at our "Little Church With The Big Heart."

Christian Education

by Carol Keil

Sunday School lessons this month tell the story of *Jesus' Call to the Disciples*. Leaders and Room Shepherds are needed. Please look for the sign-up board in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning or call the church office to sign up.



Please join us on **Sunday, March 3**, for the annual **Pancake Breakfast** following worship. The menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage and orange juice prepared by the children, youth and Sunday School leaders. A free-will offering will be collected with proceeds donated to a cause to be chosen by the children.



All Sunday School children are invited to join Pastor Meg each Sunday morning at 9:30 through Palm Sunday, April 14, to prepare for a special children's choir presentation at the **Easter Vigil** on Saturday, April 20, and the **Easter Sunday Service** on April 21.

Dinner and Discussion, led by Pastor Meg, will take place at 6:30 pm at Sweet Hollow Diner on **Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3**. Please join us for lively conversation as we discuss what we really believe!

Mission Team News

by Maureen Sansone

Blessed be God! We are surrounded by His love and His guiding spirit! These are the ways in which Sweet Hollow has shared or will share our gifts with others, transforming the lives of those in need:

Souper Bowl of Caring: We just finished Week 3 of the “Souper Bowl of Caring,” which began on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, and continues up through February 28. Please continue to bring in non-perishable items, baby formula, and diapers, as well as monetary donations. Here are our totals so far:



Week 1, we collected 100 items; Week 2, we collected 196 items, and Week 3, we

collected 85 items. **That's a total of 381 items donated!!!** Let's keep the

momentum going for these last days, up through Thursday, February 28. **All**

proceeds will go to The Huntington Community Food Council. Thanks to

Eastern Athletic Club, who has agreed to place a donation box in their lobby. Our

sincere gratitude goes out to Jane Beller, who has been counting and bringing the

donations down to the Food Council. There are two receptacles in our facility: one is located just inside the breezeway door, and the other is just inside the double doors of the Fellowship Hall.

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, March 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 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!

Soles4Souls - Shoe Drive

by Carol Keil

**SOLES
4
SOULS**

Sweet Hollow Church is proud to join the Northport/East Northport Rotary again this year in support of **Soles4Souls**. We welcome your donations of gently worn or new footwear of all types and sizes during the month of March. You'll find our **Soles4Souls** collection boxes in the breezeway. Please secure the shoes in pairs by either tying shoelaces together or wrapping the shoes together with jumbo rubber bands (available at the collection boxes).

The shoes donated are distributed both here in the USA and internationally and provide entrepreneurial business opportunities internationally.

To learn more about the amazing work of the **Soles4Souls** organization, visit [<https://soles4soles.org/about-us>](https://soles4soles.org/about-us).

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.

On Monday, February 4, W4W went to the Cinema Arts Centre, to first grab a bite to eat at their Sky Lounge and then to enjoy “On The Basis of Sex,” an in-depth look at Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

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 at Holmes Camp

Monday, June 3 — Ladies High Tea

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

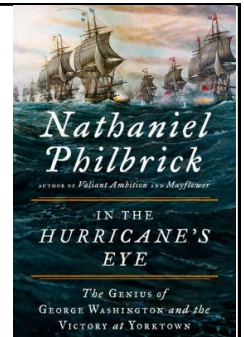
We look forward to seeing you at one, a few, or all of our events!

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.



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.

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Soles 4 Souls runs all month!						
3 10 am Worship 11:15 am Pancake Breakfast	4 7 pm Women+Women Emily Moder's, Joan Sommereyer's, and Hillary Zucker's Birthdays	5 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Alison Paulz' Birthday	6 10 am Prayer Circle 6 pm Ash Wednesday Soup & Service at Baldwin Fred DeSanti's Birthday	7	8 Frank Sansone's Birthday	9 Justin Zucker's Birthday
10 10 am Worship 10:30 am Sandwich Making Liz Von Brook's Birthday	11	12 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 10 am Prayer Circle 6:30 pm Dinner at the Diner	14 1:30 pm Book Discussion	15	16
17 10 am Worship 11:15 am Worship Committee	18 7:30 pm Session Meeting	19 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 10 am Prayer Circle 6:30 pm Dinner at the Diner	21 Alice Wansor's Birthday	22 Denise Moder's Birthday	23
24 10 am Worship	25	26 12 pm Project Regeneration 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 10 am Prayer Circle 6:30 pm Dinner at the Diner	28	29	30
31 10 am Worship						

**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 April Issue
March 21**

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6

All are welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin with a soup supper at 6:00 pm, followed by worship with imposition of ashes at 7:30 pm. The cost for the supper is \$7 adults, \$3 children, \$20 family maximum.

Project Regeneration

Sweet Hollow will host the next Project Regeneration lunch on Tuesday, March 26, at noon. Small and diminishing congregations are invited to participate in a four-lunch series (over 6 to 9 months) called "Project Regeneration." This is a forum for us to meet, learn from one another, and identify and model "best practice" approaches to the ministry of their churches. Each church is asked to send two to three people as representatives. Sweet Hollow is hosting this program because we are actively looking for tools and solutions to guide us into the future. Please let Pastor Meg know if you would like to attend.

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