

Church On The Hill

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From The Pastor's Desk

"Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We would like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet, it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time."

~ PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

"I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD."

~ PSALM 40:1-3



Advent is a season of waiting. During Advent, we're not just waiting for the first snow of the year, the arrival of guests in our homes, or the holiday break from work. Quite simply, during Advent, we wait for Jesus.

In the Christian liturgical calendar, Advent follows after the longest stretch of time in the calendar. It's a season called "ordinary time." Most of our lives is a series of ordinary days and ordinary months. The Christian faith is not lived in mountaintop experiences but rather in the unfolding of our daily decisions and actions. While ordinary time encourages us to live faithfully in whatever we do and wherever we find ourselves, it can have side effects.

In ordinary time, we can get so busy living that we begin to lose sight of what matters and ultimately, lose sight of God. Ordinary time can have another detrimental effect—everyday life can take a toll on us. It can be filled with failures and rejections. Our lives may be marked with loss and sorrow and disappointment. This past year may be one we'd like to forget rather than remember.

Advent is about waiting for Jesus—both in his incarnation (it's why we tell the birth story every year) and in his return at the end

of time. But we are also waiting for Jesus to show up in our lives—to do a new thing in our midst. Advent teaches us to wait for it and Advent teaches us to expect it.

In the ordinary details of our lives, we can forget to wait and to expect God to draw near to us and make us into new creations. The prophet Haggai reminds us that God will act "in a little while" (2:6). Advent invites you and me to slow down, to wait for and to expect God to do a new work in our lives and in our world. Advent stokes the flames of hope in our hearts and draws us to the one who has drawn near to us—Immanuel ("God with us").

May the One who began a good work in you bring it to completion as Christ draws near to you during this season of Advent!

GRACE AND PEACE, PASTOR BLAINE

2016 Christmas Services

Friday, December 16 - 7:30 PM

Blue Christmas Service

(at Church on the Hill)

Sunday, December 18 – 11:00 AM

White Christmas Service

Tableau of the Nativity of Christ

Presentation of White Christmas Gifts

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service – 8:00 PM

Wassail Hour – 9:00 PM

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Service of Communion – 11:00 AM

Blue Christmas Service

*Friday, December 16, 2016-7:30 PM
At Church On The Hill*

Are you anticipating a Blue Christmas? For many, "the most wonderful time of the year" is anything but. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one. Or, it may be a time that has always caused us much stress and anxiety. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation—all these and more can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating.

Join us at Church on the Hill on Friday, December 16, in the sanctuary for an inspirational service of song, meditation, comfort, and hope. This will be an ecumenical service with Grace Episcopal Church of Whitestone and First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone.

Community Nursery School

Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already here. Where has the year gone?

The Nursery School students gathered together to celebrate Thanksgiving. Each class prepared a special dish for the Thanksgiving feast. Our menu included mashed potatoes, stuffing, cornbread, chicken nuggets and pudding.

The Pre-K students worked very hard to prepare for their Thanksgiving show and they amazed the audience with their outstanding performance.

REGISTRATION 2017-2018

The Church on the Hill Community Nursery School will be holding In-House Registration for the 2017-2018 school year on January 26, 2017. In-House Registration is for students who are currently enrolled and their siblings.

Outside Registration will begin February 9, 2017. For additional information please contact the Nursery school office by email at reginacoth@gmail.com or by telephone (718) 539-0732.

REGINA SCHAFFER, DIRECTOR

Crawford Holiday Party

Blaine and Brittnee Crawford invite the congregation to the parsonage for a holiday open house on **Saturday, December 17, from 3:00-6:30 PM**. Drop in as you are able—there will be plenty of food and holiday cheer!

Food For Kids Grant

Judy Knese, from Bayside High School applied for a grant through NYCDOE Service In Schools to collaborate with the Church on the Hill in Flushing, Queens for the "Food for Kids Ministry." Bayside High School just received word:

Congratulations!

Your school has been selected from hundreds of applications to receive the \$1,000 Service-Learning Grant! The Service-Learning Grant Selection Committee was highly impressed with your proposed service project and its potential to enhance school-led service and service-learning activities within your school community.

Bayside's participation with Church on the Hill will likely be in January. Thank you, Judy!

The church office and building will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year, except for worship services.

We will re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Memorial And Special Gifts

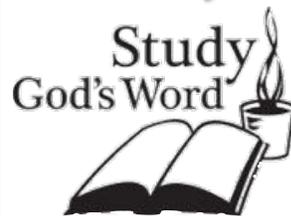
*COTH Received The Following Donations
In November, 2016*

Rose Garden Memorial Fund

In memory of Ida Napoli
by Frank Napoli

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

7:30 PM
Folensbee Lounge
Concludes December 13,
Begins again January 10



December Birthdays

Buck Kellaway	12/14	Sally Ann Castle	12/25
Irma Matzke	12/19	Donna Serra	12/25
M. Barbara Andrade	12/20		
Kook Ryo	12/22		

If you do not see your name, please call the church office and we will update our records.

COTH CONSISTORY: REV. BLAINE D. CRAWFORD, MINISTER AND PRESIDENT, MARION KOPKO, VICE PRESIDENT

ELDERS: JUDIE KELLAWAY • MARION KOPKO • DORIS KRISNAK • PAMELA LOPEZ • GERRY MENDLER • SARAH WHITE

DEACONS: KRYSTAL ANDALUZ • EMERSON CHEN • JAYNE HALLEY • GINA LOMBARDO • IRMA SCHUBERT • CONNIE THORSEN

RCA Women's Connection Event

On December 3, all women are warmly invited to attend a special event where we'll discern how God's Spirit is moving in RCA congregations throughout NYC, beckoning us to encourage, equip, and empower women to strengthen the body for mission in the world. Together, we will share stories, worship, break bread, and explore a one-year collaborative process called a "learning community," which invites us to custom-design new ministries within our own unique, urban contexts.

Honoring the strong history of RCA women in our city, we look forward with expectation and hope to creating vibrant, new ministries that build on our legacy and allow women's gifts and influence to be fully embraced, developed, and utilized. Please join us! Here are the details for the event:

"Doing A New Thing"

Saturday, December 3, 2016

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Women's Connection Event

Elmendorf Reformed Church, New York City

A complimentary light lunch and materials will be provided. Elmendorf Reformed Church and its pastor, Rev. Dr. Patricia Singletary, are hosting the event. Belinda Perry-Sessom, who is a member of Elmendorf Reformed, is the event coordinator. The session will be led by Rev. Liz Testa, RCA coordinator for Women's Transformation and Leadership, and Lesley Mazzotta, Women's Transformation and Leadership facilitator and certified spiritual director.

Auction 2017

Saturday, January 7

Viewing At 9 AM

Bidding Begins At 10 AM

We need your help and support! All of our auctioned items are donated. We need your donations! If you have items you wish to donate to the auction, please deliver them to the Church Office, call the Church Office at (718) 358-3671 for a pick-up, or call Emerson Chen at (917) 881-1868.

Please remember that we are not accepting large furniture. In addition, we ask that you help us advertise the auction. Invite as many people as you can. The success of this event depends on spreading the news!

EMERSON CHEN

Shared Occupancy

After further conversation about the possibility of sharing our space with another congregation, the consistory has decided to enter into the negotiation stage with a Korean-speaking, Presbyterian church that is a part of a denomination called the Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad (KPCA). Members of the consistory will be meeting with the leadership of this congregation in early December.

Music Director Search Committee

This is an update to let you know about the Music Director Search Committee. The committee members are Emerson Chen and Nancy Gessner, co-chairs, Rhoda Jabbour, Jim Nicholas, Jeanne Sarran and Rev. Crawford. The committee has met several times and is working on setting up a profile for the position. We will be making periodic reports to the congregation to let you know our progress.

NANCY GESSNER AND EMERSON CHEN

Women's Christian Circle

On the morning of the Harvest Festival the doors opened to tables laden with gifts, jewelry, Christmas items, copper art work, beauty items, foods of all kinds and Santa himself ready to have a photo shoot with you. Delicious cooking smells wafted through the rooms enticing all to share in the breakfast and lunch the kitchen had to offer. Along with others, it was good to see our Helen and her daughter Nancy selling raffle tickets, and so successfully. We had a banner year for merchant donations for which we are so thankful to those who canvassed the neighborhood. These merchants will be thanked by personal letters.

Troop #1 again is number *one* with us. We could not have succeeded as well as we did without them. They cheerfully carted, ran, lifted, moved and assembled merchandise for us. We thank them and their Scout Master Joe Krsnak.

When the doors closed in the late afternoon, Ray, our keeper of the Harvest Festival proceeds, said "We done good."

We again thank *all* who worked so diligently to make this Festival a success.

Our Christmas get-together will be on the second Saturday of the month—December 10. At this time our amazing Thespians will present their production "St. Ann." St. Ann, Mary's mother, depicts her role and thoughts on her new grandson's birth—Jesus. Again our in-house author, Joan Wagner wrote this thought provoking play. We will have a "surprise" Christmas luncheon followed by *your* Christmas cookies which you kindly will bring for all to share.

Till then: May the peace that passes all understanding be yours this Christmas season!

JOAN AND NINA

Great News

The Harvest Festival on November 12, netted over \$6,000 but all expenses are not in yet. We want to thank all who contributed and those who shopped to make this fundraiser a huge success.

169th St. House



As stated previously, the consistory has decided it is in the best interest of Church on the Hill to sell the house on 169th St. The consistory is now researching the legal process to do so. More information will be communicated in the coming months.

2016 Mission Trip

Thank you *so much* to everyone in our loving, supportive church congregation for helping make our 2016 mission trip possible! On Columbus Day weekend, the YPF headed out east to help some of the folks in our area still affected by Hurricane Sandy. As unbelievable as it may sound, even years after the storm, there are areas where homes are still boarded up and families continue to struggle to get back on their feet. Even where some new construction has begun, many of the new regulations and standards in place to prevent future damage can present a challenge to folks in terms of time and money. Our trip was run by a group called Next Step Ministries, which does a great job of working with locals to understand what their needs are and how help can best be provided. Unlike many other mission trip organizations, they have a staff member who partners with the community throughout the year, instead of just providing short-term aid and then packing up and leaving. The staff had great relationships with the families we met and worked with, and pretty soon we felt very close to those families too!

Over the course of the weekend, we worked at the houses of two families, one in East Rockaway and one in Lawrence, NY. Our group worked on outdoor home maintenance, fence building and landscaping work, installing insulation in walls, some general demolition, and cutting and installing drywall (including on the ceiling!). We got to use a *lot* of cool tools like nail guns and drills, and it was really fun to be involved in so many building projects—a very different kind of work from our past trips! We all felt like we walked away with some new skills and experience when it comes to construction. We were also able to spend time with and hear the stories of the homeowners that we were working for, and it was wonderful to make connections with some of our Long Island neighbors. Additionally, a family who had been helped by Next Step Ministries in the past hosted us for dinner on Saturday night and let all 17 of us shower at their house throughout the weekend. It was incredibly generous of them, and we loved hanging out in their kitchen and playing with their adorable dogs.

All of our youth worked very hard throughout the weekend—I was incredibly impressed by how much we were able to accomplish, and a huge part of that is everyone approaches the trip with such a good attitude and a heart for serving. That is especially important on a trip like this where the work is serious physical labor—a couple of us were quite sore when we got home Monday night! I never forget what a privilege it is to serve alongside these amazing individuals; I wish we could do this every weekend.

In our free time, we hung out, played some lawn games indoors, did homework and some recreational math tutoring, and even



watched a presidential debate and New York Giants game simultaneously. Before heading back to Queens, we all shared a meal together at Bigelow's Seafood restaurant in Rockville Centre—if any of you have ever been there, you can imagine us crammed together at the counter, we pretty much took up the whole place! They were super nice to us and the food was unbelievably good.

I want to thank every single person who came on the trip and worked so hard—Christina, Molly, Tim, Gia, Nico, George, Katherine, Isabelle, John, Amanda, Devin, Patrick, and also Trisha, Steve, Blaine, and Glenn for giving up their time to join us. And again, *thank you* Church on the Hill for your endless encouragement, support, prayers, and well wishes for all of our mission activities.

JEN HOPPER

Harvest Festival

The Church on the Hill wishes to thank all the donors who supported our annual Harvest Festival.

Please support these businesses who donated to our 2016 Harvest Festival by shopping at their businesses and mention that you saw their name at the Harvest Festival at the Church on the Hill.

- Astoria Bank**, 153-17 Cross Island Pkwy, Whitestone, NY 11357
- The Bagel Club**, 208-14 Cross Island Parkway, Bayside, NY 11360
- Bayside Milk Farm**, 35-15 Bell Blvd., Bayside, NY 11361
- The Blvd.**, 19-11 Francis Lewis Blvd., Whitestone, NY 11357
- Cascarino's Pizzeria**, 152-59 10th Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357
- Cascon Bakery**, 7-04 149th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357
- Dime Community Bank**, 24-44 Francis Lewis Blvd., Whitestone, NY 11357
- Dolly's Salon**, 41-05 162nd St., Flushing, NY 11358
- Durso's Pasta & Ravioli Co.**, 189-01 Crocheron Ave., Flushing NY 11358
- Eddie's Sweet Shoppe**, 105-29 Metropolitan Ave., Forest Hills, NY 11375
- The Edge**, PO Box 1261, Center Harbor, NH 03226
- Flushing Food Market**, 169-04 35th Ave., Flushing, NY 11358
- Jr's Bagels**, 222-10 Union Tpke., Bayside, NY 11364
- Jack's Pizza & Pasta**, 212-49 26th Avenue, Bayside NY 11360
- Kay Nails**, 29-15 Francis Lewis Blvd., Flushing, NY 11358
- Keil Bros/Garden World**, 197-23 Francis Lewis Blvd., Flushing, NY 11358
- Landmark Diner**, 1027 Northern Blvd., Roslyn, NY 11576
- Marino Bros.**, 163-07 29th Ave., Flushing, NY 11358
- Macari Vineyards**, PO Box 2, Mattituck, NY 11952
- North Shore Diner**, 196-52 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY 11358
- Omega Coffee Shop**, 200-07 32 Ave, Bayside, NY 11361
- Outback Steakhouse**, 23-48 Bell Blvd., Bayside, NY 11360
- Park Side Restaurant**, 107-01 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY 11368
- R & L Salon & Spa**, 20-07 Utopia Pkwy, Whitestone, NY 11357
- Raindew**, 35-15 Francis Lewis Blvd., Bayside, NY 11358
- Terrace Diner**, 212-97 26th Ave, Bayside, NY 11360
- Veranda Restaurant**, 208-01 Northern Blvd., Bayside, NY 11361

Ridder Church Renewal

Like many of the Ridder team members I thought that church renewal was to learn how to fix a church that perhaps might be broken. I was soon to find out that is not the case at all. It was about how to communicate with each other for the welfare of our beloved church.

Well, how to do that? Tough question, as it's not easy to express how one might feel. I believe if expressed in a safe environment, Our Church, for example, it might become easier. We can be Authentic; by being honest or as I like to say, "let it all hang out," and we can practice Integrity; by being truthful and sincere. For example, if I say I will do something, I need to honor what I said I would do! These are just a few of many ways we can communicate with each other. For me, communication is important if we are to continue to do God's work together as a church.

The first weekend in November, the team went on a retreat in Ellenville, a beautiful place in upstate New York. When we go on these retreats we are given opportunities to spend quiet time (solitude) and to spend time with each other in a safe and quiet environment, where we can reflect on our lives and discuss what we are learning so we can take it back and share it with the congregation.

This retreat was no different. The beauty of the changing leaves the mountains and the quiet that surrounded us, all contributed to learning about what we are called to be as a church, and the emerging future of our church as God sees it.

We started with imagining we were Lewis and Clarke, if you remember your history, Lewis and Clarke were given the task of mapping newly acquired land.

They went into uncharted territory and not knowing where it would take them and not knowing what or who they would meet along the way. I cannot imagine the anxiety Lewis and Clarke experienced while forging ahead and not knowing what results they might have. What does this have to do with us!

Well, the way I see it is we are about go off the old map of Church on the Hill and go into uncharted territory. Think of it as "stepping out of our box." What does that mean? It means change. No one likes change but if we are to be part of what God sees for our church we must change.

What comes to mind is that as we open our doors to other Churches in our community and by sharing our space with others we are not only blazing a new trail, stepping out of our box, but we are also Boundary Crossing. I believe we as Christians are called to change and to make change. We are called to build relationships in a place or places we might avoid. This is Boundary Crossing. This became clear to me when I thought about some of the Missions in which our Church is presently involved, and I realized we are not just crossing boundaries we are building relationships with the people we serve and isn't that what God wants us to do?

For me, when I decided to join the Ridder team I thought of it as a new adventure and perhaps another way to serve our most gracious and loving God.

JUDIE KELLAWAY

Ridder Team Coffee Hour

On December 4, the Ridder team invites you to a special coffee hour at which they will share some of their learning with the congregation! Come hear from Jen Hopper, Dana Chan, Judie Kellaway, Steve Sarran, Sue Nicholas, and Emerson Chen as they speak of their experience in the Ridder process.

Hurricane Matthew Relief

At a worship service in October, a special offering was taken for the victims of Hurricane Matthew. The RCA is partnering with World Renew Disaster Response Services and World Vision to serve people in Haiti, Cuba, and Florida. Our thrift shop, the Bargain Boutique, matched the offering received and \$1,600.00 was sent to the RCA to help the victims of this disaster.



Finance

Church On The Hill Operating Account, As Of October 31, 2016

	October	4 Months YTD	Budgeted
Revenue	\$ 24,810	\$ 77,827	\$ 92,000
Investment Income	\$ 8,000	\$ 38,887	\$ 32,000
Loan from Escrow		\$ 11,575	
Total Revenue	\$ 32,810	\$ 128,289	\$ 124,000
Expenses	\$ 32,221	\$ 127,046	\$ 137,532
Net	\$ 589	\$ 1,243	\$ (13,532)

On November 20, we celebrated Stewardship Sunday by presenting and dedicating our pledge cards for the upcoming calendar year. If you did not receive a stewardship packet and would like to make a pledge, please contact the Church office. Pledge cards may be mailed or dropped off at church at any time. Thank you for your generosity.

Due to increased expenses beyond our control, we have found it necessary to increase the amount taken monthly from the Endowment Fund from \$8,000 to \$10,000 effective December 1.

We wish everyone a most blessed Christmas and a wonderful 2017.

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