



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.”

- Mark 1:16-20

I don't think the fisherman Jesus called to be his followers had a clue about what it meant to follow him. Their zeal was most likely due to a misinformed hope of fame and fortune. They seized upon an opportunity they may have thought would be a change from their dreary, precarious lives. But, as we often see in the Gospels, they got it wrong. Whether they were arguing about who is going to sit at Jesus' right or left hand in the coming kingdom, or whether they wrongly interpret Jesus' understanding of greatness, over and over again, they miss the point of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

It is the same today for many Christians. Christianity for the most part has lost its counter-cultural edge and many Christians have domesticated Jesus. The irony is that by elevating him to divinity it has made it easier to be a Christian and harder to be a follower. It is easier to worship a deity up in the sky then put faith into action by doing the work of Jesus.

The early Christians were known as the Followers of the Way...the Way of Jesus. This was and is the way of radical love. This love puts God first above all things. This love forgives enemies and prays for its persecutors. This love welcomes all as sisters and brothers in Christ breaking down barriers imposed by society. In the Community of Christ, says Paul: “There is no male or female, Jew or Greek, slave or free...”

The Way the followers of Jesus followed had little to do with doctrine, creeds and catechisms. It was not reduced to believing in Jesus in order to be saved. In fact, being saved had nothing to do with following Jesus, rather it was about being transformed by God's love and grace. When one was baptized one shed one's old self and put on Christ, becoming a new creation. This is what being a follower is truly about.

This year I hope we all can ask ourselves what it means to be a follower of Jesus. As we begin another year of ministry, may this question inform all we do at the church, in our community, and most importantly, in our lives.

Blessings,
Angela



Welles Remy Crowther
Charitable Trust

SINCE 2001

Concert for Remembrance at Grace Church

The annual Concert for Remembrance of 9/11 will be held Sunday, September 18, at 5:00 pm at the Grace Episcopal Church, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY. Sponsored by the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust, the concert is given in memory of all the victims and heroes of the attacks against our country on September 11, 2001. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for admission.



Choir

I'm making an appeal to all members and friends of the Palisades Church who have ever thought they'd like to try singing in a choir to join us at our first rehearsal of the season, Thursday, September 8 at 8:00 pm in the Parish House. We particularly need altos, tenors and basses, but we won't say no to any sopranos who might happen to turn up. You don't have to know how to read music. It does help to have a fairly good ear (i.e. do you sound good to yourself singing in the shower?) All kidding aside, we have a wonderful time learning together and leading worship.

And singing has been proven to be good for your health!

Michael Shapiro, Music Director

In Memoriam

Carol McGann-Moore died peacefully on Monday, August 29. Visiting hours will take place on Friday, September 2, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at Hannemann's Funeral Home in Nyack. A Memorial Service celebrating Carol's life will take place on Saturday, September 3, at 11:00 am at the Palisades Presbyterian Church.

Please keep Bob, Heather, Jessica and their families in your prayers.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 3 11:00 am Memorial Service for Carol McGann-Moore
- 4 10:00 am Service led by Nina Von Eckardt
- 11 Communion Sunday
Welcome back picnic at Douglas house
First Day of Sunday School
and the Blessing of the Backpacks
- 13 7:30 pm Session
- 18 Teacher/parent Sunday School planning meeting following worship
5:00 pm Concert for Remembrance, Grace Church, Nyack
- 20 Presbytery Meeting at Holmes

Blessing of the Back Packs and First Day of Sunday School

Sunday, September 11, 10:00 am. Bring your backpacks to worship and we will say a special blessing for the beginning of the school year!



Confirmation Class

Angela will once again be teaching a confirmation class this year for students in grades 8th and up. The class will meet on Wednesday nights beginning October 5 in the Parish House from 5:30-6:30pm. A light snack will be served at each meeting.

Please let Angela know if your child will be attending and feel free to invite others who may not be church members but might want their child to receive confirmation.

Angela teaches from a Reformed Christian perspective but includes lessons on other religions. She encourages the kids to explore their beliefs and how they impact their lives and their doubts.

The class will attend an overnight confirmation retreat at Holmes Presbyterian Conference Center in the Winter/Spring 2017. There will be a joint mission project and hopefully a trip to another place of worship.

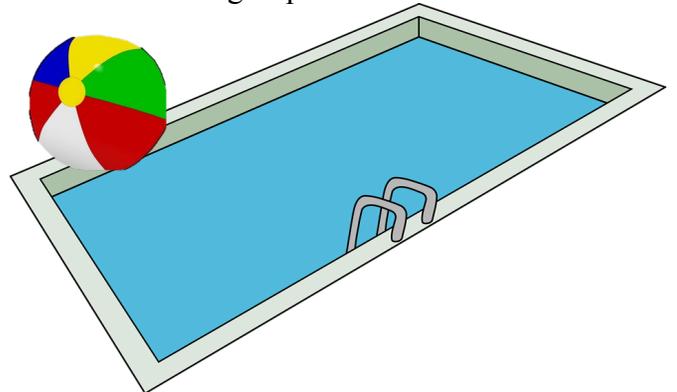
On Sunday, **September 18** at 11:00 am, there will be a Sunday School **planning meeting** for all parents and teachers.

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons oversaw this year's Strawberry Festival on June 11. It was a time of good food and fellowship. How thankful we are that the rain held off. Thanks to all who helped with varied tasks that made this annual event a success. A special thanks to Curt and Sabelle Frasca for arranging the music, face painting & the popcorn!

The Deacons hosted a reception after the memorial service for Dr. Herbert Kellogg, husband of long-time church member Jeanette Kellogg, on July 12. In addition to overseeing weekly coffee hours, the Deacons continued to maintain the prayer chain, offer rides to worship, and provide meals to those in need over the summer.

Welcome Back Picnic and Pool Party following worship on Sunday, September 11 at the home of Marjorie Douglas (275 Kings Highway, Orangeburg). Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish House.



Church Window Restoration

For two weeks in July, the Willet Hauser Stained Glass Co. worked to restore 18 windows in the sanctuary, the Parish House entry, and the narthex. The work involved cleaning, replacing broken panes and repairing wooden and lead frames, installing bracing, and painting existing wood frames. Protective plates were installed on every window. Hardware was repaired or installed for all sanctuary and narthex windows so that they could be easily opened. An event to thank all who supported the window project is planned for this fall.

