



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“Later after the angels, after the stable, after the Child, they went back...as we always must, Back to the world that doesn’t understand our talk of angels and stars and especially not the Child.

*We go back complaining that it doesn’t last.
They went back singing praises to Go!
We do have to go back, but we can still sing the alleluias!”
-Ann Weems*

I read a lot of poetry by Ann Weems during the Christmas season. It reminds me of what Christmas is all about. It’s not the gifts, the lights, the sales, and the busyness. It’s about the birth of a child, stars and angels, good news to the poor and the oppressed, good news for us who long for God; who long for an authentic, conscious life.

This past year we have witnessed a force in our world in direct opposition to the message of the Christ-child. More than ever we have lost the counter-cultural passion that Christ brought into the world. He longed for a world where people practiced radical love of neighbor, especially for those on the margins, in need, or who were not of their kin. He longed for a world of economic justice, where those in power shared their wealth and no one suffered the pangs of hunger, thirst, or poverty. He warned of the temptations of wealth: greed, lack of compassion, lack of mercy. He warned of the trappings of religion; the show of it without the spirit. All of these and so much more is what it means to follow this messiah. Are we willing to live by the good news that the birth of Christ inspires?

It is now up to us. The gifts have been opened, the lights put away, and the mangers taken down.

Will we embody the vision of Christmas in this season of Epiphany? Will we go back, still singing our alleluias, still striving for peace, love, truth and justice in the world? Will we allow the birth of Christ to transform our lives and, through us, transform the world?

This is the invitation, this is the question. May the Holy Spirit touch your heart in this season of light. May the praises to our God continue throughout the year.

Blessings,
Angela

2017 Mission Fund Distributions

Stony Point Center Lighthouse Project	\$300
More Light Presbyterians	\$200
Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church Immigration Forum	\$250
Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center	\$300
Rural and Migrant Ministry, Inc.	\$300
Midnight Run	\$500
Nyack Center	\$300
Presbytery Prison Partnership	\$300
Planned Parenthood	\$500
Presbyterian Welcome/Parity	\$200

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

January	7	Communion
January	9	Annual reports due Session 7:30 pm
January	28	Annual Meeting 11:00 am



Session Elections

At the December meeting, Session elected William Menke to serve as Clerk of Session for 2018 and Sue Webb to serve as Treasurer for 2018. Henry Shaw was re-affirmed as our Parish Associate for 2018.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will take place directly following worship on January 28. The reports of committees will be received as well as review of financials for 2017, the 2018 budget, voting on Pastoral terms of Call for 2018. We will elect a member at large for the nominating committee, auditors, and a ruling elder. Annual reports will be available in the Church office and Parish House by Sunday, January 14. Please make every effort to attend this important time in our life together as a faith community.

Reports Due

Please have all annual reports submitted to the office by January 9 so Tamika has time to put together the docket and have it available to distribute the week prior to the meeting.

Deacon's Corner

Happy New Year to everyone!
After a busy December, we are back at our regular duties. We delivered beautiful Poinsettias that decorated the sanctuary to people who went through difficult times in the past year. Hopefully, it brought a smile to their faces.

This January we happily welcome Bob Moore who is joining us as a new Deacon.

As always, if you or anyone you know is in need of some food or a casserole, please call Margaret Allen. For a ride to church, you may contact Jim Rubenstone ahead of time and if possible, we will provide it. Steven Van Dyk will take your requests for prayers.

Gifts for Youth for Seniors

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas presents that were delivered to hospitalized children in Harlem.

Church Decorations

Thank you to the faithful and the new workers who helped decorate the church for the Christmas festivities.

Parking Reminder

During the snow season, everyone must park on the church side of the street so that traffic can pass when the snow piles up.



Weather Alert

In the event of an extreme weather event, please call the church and listen to the message or check the church website to find out if worship is canceled. Notice will be given by 8:00 am on the day of the service.
www.palpresny.org

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