



THE BELL TOWER



“PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE WORLD
JESUS LIVES OUR GOD REIGNS”

Vol. 61 No. 9

East Rockaway, N.Y.

October 2021



HurriCon returns to Bethany Church on Saturday, **November 13, 2021 from 10 am to 5 pm.** This is our third year and we hope to be our best ever! There will be comics books, local artists, original art, food, raffles, comic book artists doing commissions, toys, books, and so much more for sale at HurriCon. Need a unique Christmas gift? You'll find it at this show!

Guests include; Sean C. Jackson (who will have copies of his new book Star Wars Mazes for sale at the show), Marvel artist Keith Williams, and East Rockaway's own artist John Hartt, to name a few.

So make your calendar for the return of Hurricon, 11/13/21! ...submitted by David Donovan

Welcome Back
to Bethany!

Come on back!
Sunday services have room for many more.

Please join us.

Reservations are NOT required.

So just come on over.

Let's worship together.

Dates to Remember:

October 31...Halloween
November 2...Election Day
November 7...End Daylight Savings
November 11...Veterans' Day
November 13...HurriCon Returns!
November 25...Thanksgiving
November 28...Chanukah begins
December 4...Christmas Fair
December 21...First Day of Winter
December 25...Christmas Day

Lay Readers and Ushers are needed for Sunday Worship. Please sign up on the sheet in the Hallway or speak with Maryanne (516-599-5768) in the office or Stephanie Maddolone (516-355-1970). Lay Readers will be required to assist with the service and read two (2) Bible passages for that Sunday. Please speak to Pastor Mark for further directions.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon (Closed Thursdays)

The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Changes

I'm glad I no longer have to commute up to the Hudson Valley every week, but one thing I really miss, especially this time of year, are the Autumn colors along the interstate highways during the month of October. By about the time this comes out, the colors will probably be peaking as brilliant oranges, reds and yellows, with just enough evergreen in the mix to remind you that there is no more gifted artist than the One who created the natural world in all of its splendor.

Of course, like so much of the natural world's most breath-taking miracles, this one is fleeting. A couple of weeks and we will have gone from the lush green of summer, through the full palette of fall colors, and finally come to the grey nakedness that will stay with us until the Spring. It's funny, if you think about it, but it is not when the trees are in their prime season that they are the most beautiful, but in the final few weeks before they give in to the inevitable coming of the end, their final explosion of color, a last great dance before the darkness enfolds them, perhaps even a display of joyous gratitude for the life that they enjoyed. But even more than that, their final show of glory is also a kind of promise, like a shooting star reminding us to look up, even as it makes its final arc across the sky, and see in its arc, not a sinking into oblivion, but a sign pointing to the infinite number of lights still shining in the midnight sky, waiting for their chance to shoot across the sky, their moment to shine across the night sky. I love the beauty of

the changing leaves, even though I am not a fan of the cold, dark, months that follow. The rich colors remind me of the truth that all things have their season but also remind me that with every ending is the promise of a new beginning; the leaves will be back, and that new life is already preparing for its season, even as the old one is celebrating its last great hurrah.

Life is change. Like the One who created it, it is dynamic, it never stands still. More than that, life is insistent, it will not be denied. Even as the dead leaves lay on the ground, they are leaching nutrients into the earth to feed the seeds beginning already to grow as they wait their time to break through the earth and reach up into the sky. It is not life that is short, but rather, death; as God's will to create keeps transforming it into life, each in its due season, each unique, yet all of them as eternal as change itself.

Of course, life may be dynamic and all about change, but for a lot of us, that seems like a cross. We yearn for permanency, for things that are eternal. The scripture tells us that we are made in image of God, from the love that is the very essence of God, a God who is sure and as steadfast as eternity itself. We yearn to know that steadfastness in a world which seems to be not simply changing but spinning off its axis. We want a faith that is the same today as it was yesterday and as it will be tomorrow, a faith whose bulwark are the unchanging commandments of an unchanging God.

What we sometimes might miss, though, is that we already have that. We have a God who so loved the world that he became one of us in Jesus of Nazareth. That God gave us the Great Commandments to love our God with all our being and to love our neighbors as ourselves, not just with warm feelings or even heart-felt prayers alone, but with our whole being, with open hands, open hearts, and open minds. God gave us brains to think with, not just to blindly trust, or follow an ecclesial authority, but to discern together what those commandments require of us in any given situation, and to try and build, as we learn and grow in God's faith and love together, on the traditions and the doctrines of the church across time as well as space.

Just as importantly, our God calls on us to learn and to grow, to walk with Jesus through the transformative process of discipleship and that is all about that arduous process of discernment, of separating the wheat from the chaff, of repentance, and of letting go of that which was in favor of welcoming the new thing that God is doing.

When we understand what is most important, the light of God's love lived in the lives of God's people, then we can open ourselves up without fear to whatever each new day will bring. Like the trees, as we too go through life's many changes, we do not need to be afraid, or to cling desperately to that which was, because we will rest in the assurance that after the great and glorious days of Autumn, through the death of winter, God's love is present, hard at work, making loves' new manifestations and life's new miracles, just in time for Spring.

I always feel a little wistful when I see those beautiful Autumn leaves because I tend to think of their beautiful display as a last hurrah, before the coming of the season of darkness. But in fact, maybe it is just our Creator reminding us, that she'll be back, and we ain't seen nothing yet!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark



Bethany Bell Tower ...is a monthly publication of

BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

100 Main Street, East Rockaway, New York 11518 (516) 599-5768
Maryanne Walling, Secretary, bethanyoffice@optimum.net, www.bethanycong.org

Reverend Mark Lukens, Pastor, revlu@aol.com
Mildred and Art Roemer, Editors Emeritus and Guiding Lights
Charles D'Agostino, Editor, Jennifer Valis, Assistant Editor
Reach us directly at: cjdagostino@gmail.com or 516-721-8885

***Statements made in editorials, signed articles or letters, do not represent an official position in this church.
Persons with differing opinions are invited to expres their views in letters to the editor.***

Are you less than perfect? Welcome! We are a community or imperfect people (including but not restricted to): squirming children and their harried parents, happy and sad people, people with challenges, seniors, young people, middle aged folks, people of every race, poor people, rich people, in between people, LGBT and straight people, true believers, seekers, agnostics, odd and ordinary people, extraordinary people, un-churched and unsure people, people with disabilities, hypocrites, saints, sinners and everybody else. Because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here just as you are!



Greetings from your Bethany Moderator

In peace, Janet Moser, Bethany Moderator

Autumn Greetings!

Last month I touched on the wonders of the autumn season but had to cut it short to share all the wonderful things happening at Bethany. We had a great Corporate meeting. The committee reports really showed the Bethany spirit and commitment. I'm so happy to be a part of this community.

But now I do have the opportunity to share more about my favorite season, autumn. Let's look at some of our fall traditions and find out where they came from. I'll be using two online sources for my info – Trip Trivia and Mental Floss. (Good librarians and researchers always share their sources).

Have you ever done a corn maze? I've gone several times to one at Schmitts' Family Farm in Melville. Now you might guess that corn mazes came from England since they are big on hedge mazes over there. But no, the corn maze is a USA creation and a recent one at that. In 1993, Don Frantz created the first corn maze at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA. Check out his bio. He's no stranger to creativity.

Leaf Peeping – I did not know this was a “thing”. Seems I am far from the only person who enjoys admiring the vibrant fall colors. Turns out it is a BIG thing with a long history. This purposeful appreciation of the changing colors of the leaves can be traced back over a thousand years to a Japanese practice called “hunting leaves”. Who knew?

Oktoberfest is a fun tradition for beer lovers such as me. This celebration starts the third weekend of September and ends the first Sunday of October. Yup, we missed it. Oktoberfest started as a celebration of the wedding of Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese on October 12, 1810. The people had such a good time, they decided to do it again every year!

Trick-or-Treating – This was one of the highlights of my childhood years. As you may know, Halloween has roots in the pagan festival Samhain. Dressing up in costume, (think disguise), was originally done to drive away unwanted spirits. When Halloween became popular here in the US in the 1920s, it was an opportunity for pranking by rowdy young people. Trick-or-treating was a clever way to stop the pranksters by providing treats.

Bobbing for Apples – Does anyone still do this? I'm not sure I ever have... Anyway, this became a fall tradition only because fall is apple season. It originated as a British courting ritual. Young women would try to snatch the apple representing the man they hoped to wed. If she got it on the first try, the couple would have a long and happy relationship. Just a little weird, no? At least we can thank Covid for putting that practice soundly to bed!

However you spend your autumn days, I hope you do it with a peaceful spirit and a warm heart.



The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS



Christmas Fair Saturday, December 4th 10AM-3PM

Raffle prizes, wreathes, jewelry, housewares, clothing, Christmas decorations (all new!) and much more!

If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of the raffle baskets, please make your check out to the Women's League and send it to 100 Main St. East Rockaway, NY 11518, and enter 'Christmas Fair' in the



Memo. Any questions, please contact Cathy Clarke.

Masks are required for all volunteers and anyone entering the fair. We are reaching out to the congregation this year for volunteers. We can do this with your help. You do not need to volunteer for the entire day-an hour or two would be very helpful. Please let me know if you can be of assistance, it will be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there!

TROOP 121

The troop is hoping to expand and induct new members. This is a fun troop which always has a number of activities each month. Scouts do not have to live in East Rockaway nor go to Bethany Church. The troop has scouts coming in from Long Beach, Baldwin, Rockville Centre and other places.

If you know of any young man between the ages of 12 and 17 suggest that they come to one of the regularly scheduled meetings every Monday at 7:30 PM.

No experience necessary!

(For more information, please visit the troop's website: <http://troop121ny.org>)

BOY SCOUT TROOP 121

TODAY'S YOUTH... TOMORROW'S LEADERS

The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

FROM THE TRUSTEES:

We will be having an in-person meeting this month. We hope to pursue many of the issues that need our attention. We feel that the building needs a good deal of maintenance and we need to prioritize the work. It is an old building and a large facility. One project at a time.

Yours in Christ, Rich Eaves, Chair of the Trustees

www.bethanycong.com

BOOK REVIEW:

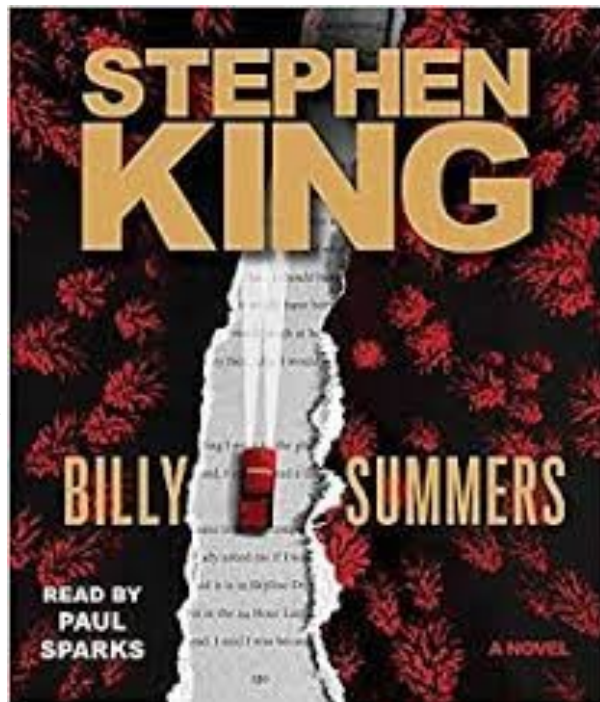
By Lou Gaspari

Billy Summers

By Stephen King

It has been quite easy to tag King as a game author and, in most cases, a horror writer. But, lo and behold, he has displayed his versatility. Billy Summers is a fantastically well written thriller with an exciting, incisive character study of a 44 year old assassin who shoots and kills only “bad” people.

Within, the novel is long but filled with much that is presently going on in our country. All this is coupled with a very unconventional love story. If you ask me to label it, King’s Billy Summers hits its target.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

You can drop food off at the church from 9 a.m. to Noon on Tuesdays and Fridays during July and August. If you would like to make a monetary donation, make checks payable to “The Long Island Council of Churches” with “food pantry” in the memo.



Any questions, please call the office and leave a message at 516-599-5768.

Now that school has started in person, we will also be collecting school supplies.

A big “**Thank you**” to all who have been faithfully donating food each week.

Undies for Everyone



Undy Sunday

October 24, 2021

Nothing says you care like underwear!

For most people, putting on "clean" underwear is probably something you do on a daily basis without even thinking. But, if you do not have a place to call home, live on the streets or in a local shelter, "clean" underwear is not usually an easy thing to come by. In fact, socks and underwear are the least likely items to be donated. So, on Sunday, October 24, 2021, Bethany Congregational Church, 100 Main Street, East Rockaway, New York, will be holding a Special Collection of new/unused underwear for men, women and children. We will be collecting briefs, boxers and t-shirts for men; panties and bras for women, and underwear for children. All items donated will be distributed through the Long Island Coalition For The Homeless. Church Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 9a.m. to noon. Bins will be provided for your donations. -YOUR MISSIONS COMMITTEE

BOOK CLUB

Join the Bethany Book Club!

Looking for a good read and maybe some good fellowship to go with it? Join us for Bethany Book Group, Tuesday evening at 7pm on Zoom! We are currently reading the wonderful autobiography, "Searching for Sundays" by Rachel Held Evans, the story of one woman's journey out of the church and back again. All are welcome, just call or e mail us at 516 599-5768 or

BethanyOffice@optonline.net for the zoom codes!



Back By Popular Demand

Festival of Miniature Christmas Trees and The Twelve Cookies of Christmas

The PRC Festival of Miniature Christmas Trees, Holiday Boutique and Christmas Cookie Walk was one of the events that many of our subscribers and friends missed last year. We are pleased to report that it is back on for this year with just a few changes. We will be accepting decorated miniature trees throughout the month of November. We will also have trees, wreaths and other gift items available for purchase at our boutique table. This year's cookie walk is entitled *The Twelve Cookies of Christmas*. It will feature twelve different cookies baked by our staff and board members, and will be packaged by staff members to ensure safety. The Cookie Walk and final drawing for the miniature trees will take place on **December 4**

between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

We hope to see you there!

Parrish Resource Center

919 Elmont Road, Valley Stream NY 11580-1049

(516) 285-0919, Fax (516) 285-2615 ,

E mail: Consultant@cpr4church.org , Website: cpr4church.org





Bethany's Blessing of the Animals

October 10, 2021



The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Superfoods for the Brain

You've heard the phrase, "You are what you eat," and the same holds true when it comes to the health of your brain! Fueling one's body with the right nutrients and minerals can have positive effects on your overall health and wellness. The brain needs a variety of healthy foods that help stimulate its focus, memory, and cognitive function at any age. You may wish to give some of these **Brain Superfoods** a try!

- **Eggs**~ Egg yolks are rich in Vitamin D, which research has found may help protect against memory loss and forgetfulness.
- **Extra Virgin Olive Oil**~ Compounds found in this oil may increase mental focus and slow a decline in thinking skills, researchers say.
- **Rolled Oats**~ Rolled oats and other whole grains provide a steady supply of glucose to fuel the brain.
- **Blueberries**~ Brightly colored berries play a role in improving communication between brain cells.
- **Beans**~ Black, green, white or spotted beans contain folate (Vitamin B-9) that may help guard against memory loss.
- **Kale**~ Nutrients in this leafy green vegetable may help slow the loss of memory and thinking skills that typically come with aging.
- **Coffee and Tea**~ Several studies suggest that these freshly brewed drinks may slow brain aging, improve mood and protect memory.
- **Walnuts**~ Munching on walnuts may help enhance mental abilities such as thinking and reasoning.
- **Lemons and Limes**~ A naturally occurring compound in citrus fruits may help safeguard the brain's nerve cells.
- **Avocados**~ This fruit provides B vitamins that studies have found may boost mood, reduce anxiety and relieve irritability.



From AARP Staying Sharp: [*Superfoods for the Brain*](#) (October 2021)

Wishing you a Wealth of Health!

Submitted by Carol Henck

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS:

- Space is now available for advertising. (No full or half pages)
- Reasonably priced.
- 1/8 page....\$200.00/year; \$25.00/month
- 1/4 page ...\$300.00/year; \$45.00/month
- 200+ circulation.
- Published monthly. (Except only one issue for July/August)
- Not just local...we mail all over.
- Send us camera-ready artwork or we will create your ad for you.
- Business expense deduction (Perhaps a charitable deduction?)

Contact our editor: Charles D'Agostino



About Us: Looking for a place where your child can learn and grow at their own pace? A place filled with adventure and where crafts fuel creativity? Do you seek an environment where your little one is safe to explore and discover? Look no further.

Our Center ...provides little ones with a quality educational program which inspires them to create, discover and achieve; fosters self-awareness and self-esteem; teaches them to treat others with gentleness, respect, compassion and generosity and prepares them for advancement to their next level of learning.

The Little Village Day Care
NOW ENROLLING!

To register, please contact us today or go to our website.

The Center only services little ones on a partial day basis:

Session A-7:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Session B-11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Session C- 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM

www.thelittlevillagedaycare.com

For more information, contact us at

100 Main Street
East Rockaway, NY 11518

(516) 846-9294



Trust
is a Donza promise

Trust us with your families wishes. To provide your family with the best decision and care for your loved ones. Call us to sit down and discuss a Tradition & Trust pre-arrangement.

Guy Donza SFD, Thomas Donza & Christine Donza
Funeral Directors & Pre-Arrangement Counselors

Donza
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

1926 **92** years 2018
Warm and Personal Service
A Family Tradition Since 1926



333 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, N.Y. 11518
Tel: (516) 593-2521 / Fax: (516) 825-6380
www.donzafuneralhome.com



HELP ME HELP BETHANY!



Charles D'Agostino
516-721-8885
Lic. Associate Broker
cjdagostino@gmail.com
www.charlesdagostino.com
Since 1994!!

**Thinking Real Estate? Buying?
Selling? Renting? Relocating?**

As a member of Bethany Church, I will gladly *donate* to the Church **25% of my earned income** (in your name) coming from a referral from any member of Bethany or reader of *The Bell Tower*, whether it is for yourself, friend, or relative! This includes any rental or the sale of any residential, condo, co-op, commercial or investment property.

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS! COMPETITIVE COMMISSION RATES! 25 POINT MARKETING PLAN!



LA ROSA REALTY
NEW YORK

SPACE AVAILABLE



**Virna D'Agostino
Debbie Sugrue**

Travel Advisors/Franchise Owners

virna.dagostino@cruiseplanners.com
(516) 305-3775
debbie.sugrue@cruiseplanners.com
(917) 929-4260

www.FriendsLoveTravel.com



THRIFTique

We are pleased to announce that the Thrift Shop at Bethany Congregational Church located at 100 Main Street, East Rockaway, NY, is open for business once again. Our hours are Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Entry of people will be limited to few at a time, temperatures will be taken, hand sanitizer and masks must be used and social distancing will be put into practice to help keep both customers and staff healthy and safe.

We carry many items in our shop and there's something for everyone!

Looking forward to seeing friends
- old and new - real soon!



American Cool Air

Marc Goldberg

21 Ryder Place
East Rockaway, NY 11518

(516) 593-0888 (Office)
(516) 593-0999 (Fax)

Customized Individual & Group Travel * Family or High School Reunions * Ocean & River Cruising * Food & Wine Travel * Cultural Expeditions * Land Tours & Private Excursions * Guided Tours & Vacation

Perry Funeral Home, Inc.

"Since 1825"

KENNETH LYSAK JR. & PHILIP M. TAGLIA

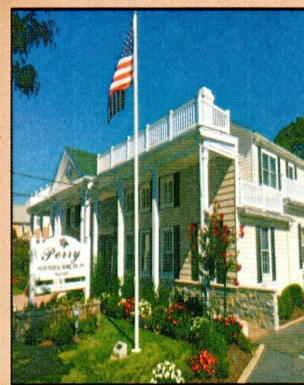
Serving All Faiths

Cremation Services • Medicaid Approved

Burial Trusts Arranged

Newly Renovated

**Pre-Planned Funeral
Arrangements**



Area's Largest Chapel

118 Union Avenue,
Lynbrook

516-593-1111

www.perryfh.com

THE BELL TOWER

Bethany Congregational Church

100 Main Street

East Rockaway, N.Y. 11518

(Non-profit Organization)

Dated material

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage paid at
East Rockaway
New York.
PERMIT NO 52

Bell Tower Boosters

If you enjoy *The Bell Tower* and you would like to see your name here, please send a small donation to Bethany Church. It helps to offset costs. Thank you.



Mural in the Fellowship Hall

Courtesy of Diana Harrison and Anthony Claverie