



THE BELL TOWER



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

Vol. 60 No. 2

East Rockaway, N.Y.

February 2020



Boy Scout Troop 121's 21st ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST Sunday March 1st... 9 AM- 1 PM

Bethany Church
100 Main Street~ East Rockaway

**TICKETS: \$5, \$4 FOR SCOUTS & SENIORS.
KIDS UNDER 5 ARE FREE!
(COFFEE, JUICE, SAUSAGE & PANCAKES!)**

**MANY GREAT RAFFLES TO WIN
& OUR VERY POPULAR 50/50**

Please come down to help support the volunteers and

see the amazing program they provide for our Scouts!!!

Dates to Remember:

February 25...Anti-Racism Workshop
February 26...Ash Wednesday
March 8...Begin Daylight Savings Time
March 15...Women's League Meeting
March 17...St. Patrick's Day
March 19...First Day of Spring
March 22...One Great Hour of Sharing
April 4...Spaghetti Dinner (Men's Club)
April 5...Palm Sunday
April 12...Easter Sunday
April 19...Hygiene/Health Kits collected
May 10...Mothers' Day...Blankets



Troop 121 participated in Government Night at East Rockaway Village Hall on Monday, February 10. St. Raymond's Troop 332 and Pack 84 also participated.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 121
TODAY'S YOUTH...TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Ash Wednesday

In a few more days, we will be celebrating one of my favorite days of the Christian calendar: Ash Wednesday. While always an important observance in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox communions, it has only been in the last few decades that mainline Protestant churches too have begun to re-discover why Ash Wednesday is so important and why we need to recognize and re-capture the mourning ritual of the ashes for our life and practice as disciples of Jesus. Ash Wednesday after all, kicks off the forty day walk of Jesus to Jerusalem, to Calvary and to the glory of His resurrection, a central event of our faith and the triumph of love over the power of death. We walk with Jesus and witness to his life and work, his healings, his struggles with the principalities and powers, his passion and his triumph even as the dark days of winter finally erupt in new life as the whole Creation revels in the glory of a new creation. On Ash Wednesday we are called to remember who we are, dust that moves and lives and has its being because God's love breathed life into us, and who yet fall short, make mistakes, commit sins. We remember what incredible sacrifices have been made for us and how much the grace we enjoy cost the One whose love created, redeems and sustains us.

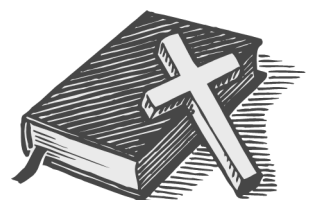
Just as importantly, we remember that we are but human beings. We come from dust and to dust we shall one day return. We remember as the scriptures tell us, that we are short lived like grass, and that we have but this brief time on earth to try and get it right, to add our few lines to the salvation history of God's people. One day we shall be called to account for our days and what they have given and taken away from the Book of Life in the way we live and move and have our being. I love Ash Wednesday because it is the most human centered of

our holidays. It is a time when we look at ourselves, mourning the mistakes we have made, but doing so in a spirit of hope, knowing that while we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we are yet loved all the more fiercely in our sin. It is a time when we cry for the terrible price paid for our second chances and yet determine to embrace those chances confident in the assurance that God will make all things work together for good for those who love God. I love it because I hear the cry of my own heart joining in with the thousands, nay, millions of others, rising up to seek out the healing touch of Christ, blind man that I am, wallowing in my fears, dragging my wounds etc. and yet trusting that there is a way, that I will find it, because I do not make this journey alone, but always in the company of the One who made me and all of the saints in light.

On Ash Wednesday, we look fearlessly at ourselves, knowing that we are about to make a journey that we are not ready for, or worthy of; a journey that will be fraught with pitfalls, wrong turns and all sorts of dangers, but which will lead us at last to the kingdom of God. Like many little Davids, facing down the Goliath of all that is wrong with the world and all that is wrong with us, we proclaim with our participation in the Ash Wednesday service that we are ready to hear the Word and begin the journey to new life- again- to keep trying to become disciples worthy of the name, leaven in the loaf, the light that shine in the darkness, that the darkness cannot overcome. The cross of ashes on our heads allows for no illusions of who or whose we are. "Here I am, Lord, take me." See you on Ash Wednesday!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark



Why Come to the Anti-Racism Workshop? February 25th!

“I’m not a racist! I always try to treat everyone fairly. I didn’t create this divide, my ancestors weren’t slave owners! I have always believed in equality and fairness and I’ve taught that to my children. Why do I have to go to a class and hear about my sins?”

If these are some of the questions on your mind, then let me assure you that you are not alone. I mean let’s face it “racism,” is a scary term in our society these days. A lot of us, (especially us white folks) had kind of thought that when we were taught not to say the “n-word,” and we all celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, that we pretty much had left the bad old days of bigotry and Jim Crow behind us. We try to teach our kids to be fair and respectful of all people. We have colleagues, even friends of color and we’re a bit confused as to what the heck all this renewed controversy is all about and we may even feel like maybe it’s us who are on the receiving end of bigotry some days. But the fact is that the relationships between us and our fellow Americans seem to be fraying at an alarming rate and whether that affects us personally or not, we are Christ’s people and as disciples, it is our calling to bring the light of his love into the world. That’s why we do this, because it is how we take another step toward the kingdom of God.

The Anti-Racism project is a local initiative utilizing trained local facilitators from all walks of

life. The workshop is designed to give you valuable information about how our history and our position in society affects how we view the world and how it has contributed to a system of inequality and injustice in our nation. I took the course last year and found it to be challenging (in a good way) but also invaluable in terms both of perspective and practical insights for daily life. So please, join us. If you can’t make the 2/25 workshop here at Bethany, there are others at houses of worship all across the region. This is a project that has come out of the SONICC (South Nassau Interfaith Clergy Cluster), the clergy association for ER, RVC and Lynbrook. **It’s free and open to all!**

PLEASE RSVP SO THAT WE CAN HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW MANY ARE ATTENDING!

February 25th, 7-9pm; Bethany Congregational Church 100 Main Street, East Rockaway, NY (516) 599-5768.... **NO CHARGE!**

OR TAKE THE SAME WORKSHOP AT ONE OF THESE LOCAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP:

February 13th, 7-9pm; United Church of Rockville Centre

February 12th, 7-9pm; St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church

Please call office of specific house of worship to RSVP. **SEE YOU THERE!**

Bethany Bell Tower ...is a monthly publication of

BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Statements made in editorials, signed articles or letters, do not represent an official position in this church.

Persons with differing opinions are invited to express their views in letters to the editor.



Greetings from your Bethany Moderator

In peace, Janet Moser, Bethany Moderator

A few months back I shared some interesting information about East Rockaway native and Bethany member, Ethel Gilloon. Well, I found a Bethany member who has known Ethel since about 11 years of age. William Goodspeed! Most of us know Bill mainly as Barbara's husband; Barbara who has had such a major role in Bethany's history for so many years. But guess what? Bill was here first!

Unlike Ethel, Bill was born in Vermont and actually attended catechism there. The family moved to East Rockaway in 1946 and Mom bought a deli. When asked where he wanted to go to church school, Bill pointed across the street to Bethany and that was that. Although his family did not attend church, Bill went to church school from 1946-1949 and knew many of the teachers and students there. At that time the congregation, choir, and church school were quite large. Church school had three categories – junior, intermediate, and senior. Bill graduated from the junior and intermediate sections. As you can see from the images below, he still has his certificates. Bill did not continue on to confirmation however and officially joined the church in 1957 along with Barbara. They told me of candlelight Christmas Eve services when, weather allowing, the congregation would walk with their candles up Main Street to Atlantic Ave. What a sight that must have been.

Bill and Barbara, who lived in Hewlett at the time, met on a blind date arranged by friends. While Bill was the baby of his family, Barbara was the third oldest of her siblings. They hit it off well and married in 1958. Back then, Bethany had a men's softball team, a part of the East Rockaway League. Bill played on that along with Pastor Dick Leonard, Andy Durso, Bob Sturm, Henry Fordham Jr., and others. In 1959, Bill joined the East Rockaway Fire Department. That involvement kept him very busy and often away from Bethany. He continued softball but played on the E.R. Fire Dept. team.

Jobs through the years include working at the A&P store from 1952-1969, Nassau County Sanitation and Water Supply 1969-1999, and tending bar at the East Point Inn on weekends for 32 years. In 1983, Barbara became a Bethany trustee and later the chairperson. After that, Bill found himself volunteered for more work such as grass cutter and grounds keeper of the parsonage during the interim time before Pastor Mark was hired. His other voluntary community involvement has included coaching sports such as Little League and basketball, serving on the Recreation Commission, and the Village Zoning Board of Appeals.



Bill enjoys working out in the yard while Barbara prefers her needlepoint. Their favorite trip was prompted by their granddaughter's studies abroad. They visited Italy to see her and the sights and still have fond memories of Florence, the food and the wine! One last note- many of us know how Bill loves his cigars but that was a later development. Bill quit smoking in the 1980's but at a party for his 60th birthday, cigars were being handed out all over the place. He decided to try one and has been enjoying them since.

Now it's your turn to share. Interview a friend, family member, or yourself and share a life story and a Bethany memory.



Write for The Bell Tower

The Bethany **Bell Tower** is our newsletter. Let's make it really ours by submitting articles of interest.

Do you know some Bethany history? A person of interest for a Spotlight article? Let's hear it.

We know that some of our congregants are personally involved with a variety of charities. For example, "Locks for Love". If you are involved or know of someone, please drop us a note. Everyone would love to hear about it. Have you read a great book recently? Have you seen a great movie lately? Share a book or movie review. Perhaps a product review? How about having a recipe swap? A 30 minute meal for during the work week? Do you have a favorite poem or prayer? How about a nice clean joke? Do you have a favorite restaurant? Find a new one? Give us a review. Great vacation? Fun getaway place? Tell us.

The possibilities are endless!

You can email submissions to Charles D'Agostino at cjdagostino@gmail.com or drop them off to the Church office. You can even mail to him directly: 70 Sunrise Drive, Lynbrook, NY 11563. Thank you!

A letter to her 'Dearest Mother'

East Rockaway resident Jo Leonsky's mother, Roslyn Hiltz, of Lawrence, passed away recently, after fighting a valiant battle with ovarian cancer. Leonsky stopped working for a year to be able to help care for mother driving her to chemo treatments in Manhattan, and to help her around the house. "We spent the last eighteen months glued at the hip," Leonsky said. For the first Mother's Day without her mom, Leonsky shared with the Herald a letter addressed to her mother:

Dearest Mom,

It has been so difficult without you — harder each passing day than the one before. When you first left this world on 2/28/09 it was a mercy because you had become unbearably ill from the ovarian cancer you fought so bravely over the past year and a half. I told you that you would never have to deal with the disease alone and God was good because we spent the past eighteen months together, becoming closer than ever, despite the fact that we were so connected before you became sick. How much time we spent talking...laughing...sharing so much. During dinner, during our trips when we were stuck in traffic going to chemo treatments from Long Island to Manhattan. We talked about everything and anything. We did everything together during these past months: went to shows, lectures, movies, out to dinner, visited with friends. You bravely went through your treatments and I was blessed to be there with you - nursing you along, encouraging you, treasuring each moment that we were together - despite your illness. You were so brave and stoic. You were so kind and caring. You were such a wonderful friend.

The other day I overheard a woman a few years younger than me talking on a cell phone to her Mom. "I love you" she said to her mother: "I'll see you soon". When the conversation was over I approached the woman and told her how I couldn't help but overhear the conversation she had with her Mom - and told her how I wished you were still here on earth so that I could tell you how much I love you

too. But...I'm sure though you are not with me anymore in this life...you know how much I love you anyway. I know how you appreciated the Springtime, which every year brings the greenery and flowers that you loved so much. Now I see the flowers and I don't have you to enjoy them with me. Sunsets come and go and I can't call you and say: "Mom, look out the window and look at the sky - it's so beautiful..." and share that with you. It's a new and lonely road, this situation of not having you with me.

Now with Mother's Day looming large in front of me, I'm not so sure how to carry on — but I promised you that if you left me...that I would try to do more than just cry and carry on because I would miss you so much. What a promise that was — a really a tough one to keep. I miss you more than words can say.

Thank you for being such a wonderful friend, mentor and teacher. Thank you for your love, kindness, and caring ways. No matter how many years go by I will never forget you. And whether you are with me on earth or in Heaven - I am proud to say that you are still my Mother no matter what.

Thanks, Mom, for all the wonderful memories and for all that you've done for me. Know that not a day goes by that I don't think of you with gratitude. Happy first Mother's Day in Heaven - and God bless you, my sweet. Until we meet again...

Love, Jo

Comments about this story? Mmalloy@liherald.com or (516) 569-4000 ext. 202.

A MOTHER'S DAY SNAPSHOT, of Jo Leonsky, right, with her mother, Roslyn Hiltz, before Hiltz fell ill.

Courtesy Jo Leonsky



Jo Schneider-Leonsky is hostessing her yearly Coffee Hour in memory of Roslyn Schneider-Hiltz, her beloved Mother. She will also be memorializing the family's precious Kitten, Angel, who sadly passed away on February 14, 2019.

This event will take place on Sunday, February 23, 2020 after Church Service in Parish Hall.

All are welcome to come and enjoy the flowers, refreshments and fellowship.

Easy Shepherd's Pie

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground lamb *or beef*
- 1 medium onion *diced*
- 2 cloves garlic *minced*
- 4 cups mixed vegetables *defrosted*
- 10 oz can tomato soup *or mushroom soup*
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon basil
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 cups **prepared mashed potatoes**
- 1 cup cheddar cheese *shredded*



Instructions

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Cook lamb or beef, onion and garlic over medium heat until no pink remains. Drain any fat.

Stir in soup, mixed vegetables, Worcestershire sauce, salt, basil and pepper. Spread into the bottom of a 2 qt casserole dish.

Spoon mashed potatoes ovetop and top with cheese.

Baked 25-30 minutes or until bubbly.

In time for St. Patrick's Day! Submitted by Charles D'Agostino for your epicurian enjoyment.

SAVE THE DATE! MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER!

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH, 6:00 P.M.

ADULTS: \$10.00

CHILDREN: \$5.00

50/50 RAFFLE!

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE! FUN FOR ALL!



THE THRIFT SHOP

On Sunday mornings when Chris Padjus announces "I have another check for the church from the Thrift Shop", did you ever wonder how they managed to make that money? It comes from selling gently used donations. Gently used means articles of clothes that are not torn or stained or small household items that work and are not missing pieces. Those articles are not sellable and end up in the dumpster.

Chris Padjus, Jo Leonsky, Bill Lewald, Gerard Cantone and myself are the members of Bethany who regularly work at the Thrift Shop.

But we have many more volunteers who don't belong to Bethany and may not have ever attended a service. I refer to them as angels with invisible wings. Among those who regularly volunteer are Carolyn Tyson, Dot Dengel, Judy Kearny and Pam (whose last name I don't even know). Dot, Judy, Pam and myself (Barbara Sobey) are sorters.

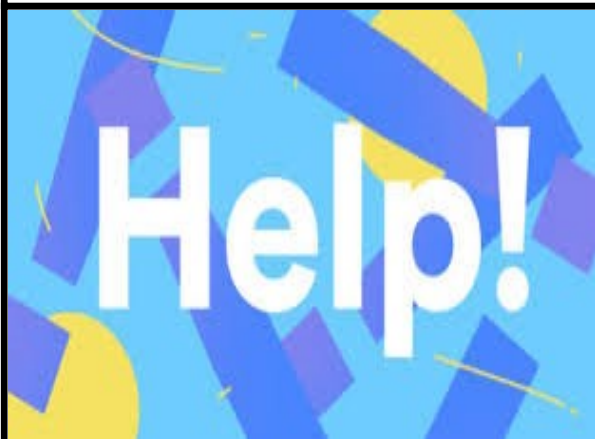
Carolyn Tyson volunteers for four hours on Friday and Saturday. Without her help on Saturdays we could not open. I recently asked her why she donates her time to a church she has never ever attended. Her reply was that she has had a good life and "It's time to give back".

A very new angel with invisible wings is Feni (again we don't know her last name). Feni and her two children come on Saturday afternoons and have started organizing our tables. Besides donating her time, Feni has purchased containers with her own funds to organize us. She works so quietly and efficiently, we almost locked her in when we closed one Saturday.

Then there is Eric (again his last name?) I arrive at church about nine fifteen on Friday mornings to move our overflow of stock from the aisles of the thrift shop into the next room. No matter how early I arrive, Eric is waiting to help. He refuses to allow me to move anything heavy. Tom, another one of the angels with invisible wings helps move donations from the shed.

Without all these wonderful workers, you would not hear Chris Padjus announce so often "I have a check from the Thrift Shop". Visit us. You may find something you could use or you may decide to join the Thrift Shop family.

Barbara Sobey



The Bethany Thrift Shop is in desperate need of helpers. Please see Barbara Sobey or Chris Padjus at church any Sunday or call the office for more information.

516-599-5768

They are open Fridays and Saturdays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM every week!

FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank You

We would like to send a BIG thank you to Reverend Michelle Wiltshire-Clemens and Reverend Rayford A. Howell. They each filled in during Pastor Mark's vacation.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Stephanie Maddalone who recently became a Grandmother for the first time:

Brynn Lee Maddalone was born in January and lives in Portland, OR!

We are always happy to print good news! Please send us any notices that you would like to see in the **Bell Tower.** (even sad ones.)

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS:

The Women's League will be having their Potluck Breakfast on Sunday, March 15 at 9am. Our guest speakers will be Travel Agents Debbie McGeary and Jeanne Loyer from Cruise Planners. We will be supplying breakfast and the men are invited to join us as our guests. Hope to see you there! Any questions, please see Cathy Clarke

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT:

The Sunday School children helped out with our "Undie Sunday" by decorating the huge boxes for collecting the new socks and underwear for Bethany's latest charity.



The Sunday School Children also distributed envelopes in Church on Sunday, February 9, 2020 asking everyone to "Share the Love". Each of the envelopes was artistically decorated by the children. They were collected in the donation baskets on Sunday.

The children will be practicing for the upcoming *Easter Pageant*, which the children put on annually.

Keep your eyes open for a Song presentation at a future service.

They also are planning an outing to benefit a local charity.

Watch for the exact dates of these events to be announced.

Thanks to Jessie, Jen and Tina for their continued hard work!



REPORT FROM MISSIONS:

Thank you everyone who continue to support our many efforts to reach out to those in need. The following is a quick report on the results of our Mission work for 2019-2020:

September 2019 — School Supplies were collected and delivered to the LICC Food Pantry to be distributed to their clients. **October 6, 2019** - Neighbors In Need - \$418.12 was collected for this UCC Asking. **November 17-24, 2019** - Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Collection - 47 Shoeboxes were collected together with \$197.00. **November 24, 2019** - Annual collection of new warm clothing sent to the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota. (White Gift Sunday) **December 8, 2019** - New Toys were collected and delivered to the LICC Food Pantry to be distributed to their clients. **December 22, 2019** - Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross - \$383.00 was collected for this UCC Asking. **February 2, 2020** - Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday - \$178 and several bins of nonperishable foods were donated directly to the Long Island Council of Churches Food Pantry. **February 9, 2020** - Two bins full of new underwear and socks were collected, to be delivered to The Coalition For The Homeless in Amityville.

UPCOMING MISSION PROJECTS:

March 22nd - One Great Hour of Sharing Asking from our UCC. **April 19th**- Hygiene/Health Kits will be collected and sent to Church World Service to aid those facing the many natural disasters in the United States and around the world. **May 10th** - *Mother's Day* - You may again this year purchase/donate a "blanket or two" working with Church World Service to aid those facing natural disasters here in the United States and around the world. **May 31st** - Strengthen the Church ...An asking from our UCC. **June 21st** - *Father's Day* - This year we will offer you an opportunity to donate "tools" to help people around the world gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to sustain themselves and their families and to build viable communities....Submitted by Maryanne Walling

CURE YOUR WINTER DOLDRUMS by Sorting through Your "Stuff" then....

WARM YOUR HEART by DONATING NEEDED ITEMS!!!

Here are some Opportunities to Help! Our Bethany THRIFTIQUE

Accepts: Any clothing, any season, Inner/Outerwear, Baby clothes/Small toys, Shoes, Household Items, Kitchenware, Bedding/Linens, Jewelry

Please NO: Furniture /Baby equipment/car seats/high chairs

Questions? Please feel free to contact: Chris Padjus (516-593-1632) Barbara Sobey (516-593-7976)

Optional Opportunities to donate Items NOT accepted at Our Thriftique:

SAVERS Thrift Store

188 Hempstead Turnpike, W. Hempstead .516-489-1661. Donations benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters of LI)

Website: <https://stores.savers.com/ny/westhempstead/savers-thrift-store-1099.html>

Accepts new or gently used: (see complete list of items on website): Clothing/Shoes, Housewares, books, media, kitchenwares, dishes, exercise/sports & outdoor equipment (bicycles, golf accessories, garden), Toys, games, puzzles, small furniture (chairs/tables), Towels, sheets, blankets, pillows

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF LONG ISLAND

See website for extensive list of items accepted: **BBBSLI.org** Or Call (631-234-0000)

Accepts items listed above, as well as small appliances, toys, luggage. For furniture donation, call BBBSLI phone number (above) **Arrange pick up at your home by going online to website to schedule**

or drop off bins (see website for locations)...submitted by Carol Henck

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Bethany Congregational Church

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Mural in the Fellowship Hall

Courtesy of Diana Harrison and Anthony Claverie