

October 2018

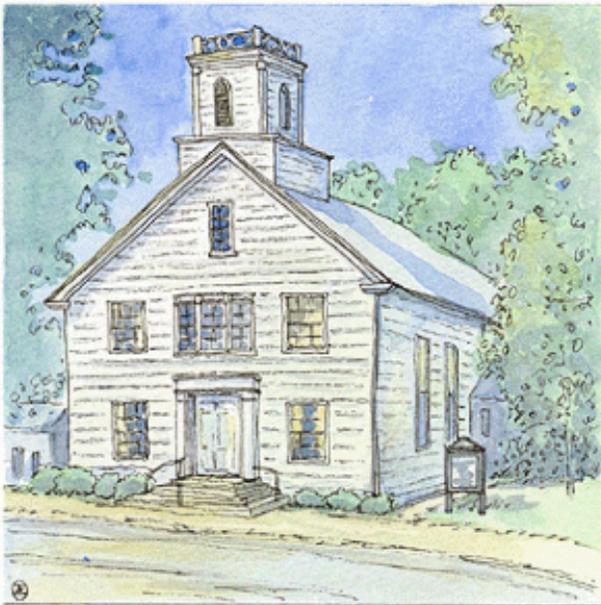
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# THE TIDINGS

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The Shelter Island Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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SHELTER ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## FROM PASTOR BOB

Have you ever noticed that over time the definition of some words have changed?

What used to be a shared understanding when a word was originally used now might evoke something else entirely.

For good or ill, something has been lost along the way. The word stewardship, I believe, is just such a word.

Many church members, when hearing the word today, think of

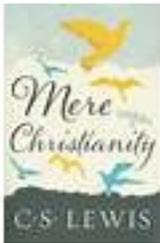
fundraisers to meet short- or long-term budgetary needs or capital improvements to the building. In fact, the word 'stewardship' seems to have been permanently coupled with the word 'campaign' and when uttered, means someone is going to attempt to convince you to part with some of *your* money.

Stewardship, or being a steward, is not a 'churchy' word at all. It comes from the Old English concept in the days of castles and realms. The Lord lived in

the castle and he owned everything in the realm. All the lands, buildings and resources were all his. He owned it all.

Close to his castle lived his steward. The steward didn't own anything. His job was to manage all the Lord's assets. It was a very responsible position. I guess you could say he was in 'asset management.' The Lord expected his assets not only to be conserved but to increase through wise and prudent investment.

If we wish to reclaim the original concept of stewardship, we have to think of it not as a campaign, but a mindset. And the way to begin this reclamation is to think of ourselves not as owners but rather as stewards. We are stewards of all that the Lord owns and has entrusted to our wise and prudent care.



The Psalmist begins the 24th Psalm with, *'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.'*

C.S. Lewis, in his book "Mere Christianity," echoes the Psalmist's sentiment by saying, *'Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given to you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.'*

In the beginning, God created everything from nothing. He takes the dust of the earth, forms it into the shape of a human being, and blows his life into its nostrils, and we become alive and are given a task to perform. We are to work and take care of the garden into which we were placed. That work is the stewardship of all that God has given us.

Stewardship then can best be defined as behaving responsibly with something you have been given.

How then do you know you are behaving responsibly with what the Lord God has given you?

If we use the gifts God has given us to further the plan God has for all humanity, to bring everyone to live in communion with each other and with him for eternity, we will have fulfilled our role as faithful stewards.

You see, stewardship is so much more than caring for the building or meeting a budget to maintain a program. But at the same time, it is the maintenance of the building and the meeting of budgets that allow any given church body to be a partner with God in fulfilling his plan for all humankind.

We live and breathe and have our being for the glory of God. And when we are good stewards of what we have been given, be it money or talents or our time, that giving should be seen as a lifetime of worship before the Lord.

Stewardship as Worship.

Who knew?

Blessings,

Pastor B

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** Join Pastor Bob in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning October 3rd, where he will explore the text for the following Sunday's sermon.



**MAUREEN'S HAVEN** is an outreach program whose mission is to protect East End homeless people by providing shelter, supportive services and compassionate care for individuals in need.

Shelter Island Presbyterian Church's participation includes (1) making 30 lunches twice a month from November through April and (2) preparing and serving two dinners at Southold Presbyterian Church during the season.

An organizational meeting will be held after church on Sunday, October 14th to launch our 4th season. We welcome all interested newcomers to join our enthusiastic team of volunteers.

For more information, call one of our co-chairs:

Dana Hallman -- 631-377-2930

Marianne Baird -- 516-492-5763

**SOUPY SUNDAYS** will begin again on Sunday, October 14th, and continue through April. That's 30 weeks of heartwarming deliciousness! We're calling all soup makers to leaf through your recipes and sign up in Fellowship Hall to make your favorite or try something new. (We'll happily be your guinea pigs).



## **EVENTS COMMITTEE**

What are we up to?

A meeting is being planned soon! We'll be discussing the upcoming "Celebrity Chef Dinner" planned for October 17th featuring "KYLE." The menu for the evening — vegetable samosas with mango chutney, chicken curry, basmati rice. The finale will be Kyle's Flan. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall, or you can make a reservation by calling the office.

Reserve early because these events fill up quickly!

Many thanks to Ellen Gove and Karen Tudor for working diligently to get the line-up of chefs in place for these dinners that take place during the fall, winter and early spring. Please think about supporting their various restaurants when you dine out! We are so grateful for their generosity supplying their time and delicious meals!

We'll keep you posted about planned events as we work out the details. We welcome your ideas for events and would love your participation in any way you might like to be part of the committee.

Laura Nelsen,

for the Events Committee

## **FINANCE**

How does the Finance Committee go about creating the yearly budget? After the stewardship session is finished, the treasurer, Peter Vielbig, lets the committee know the total amount of money that has been pledged. Expected donations are also taken into consideration. Over the course of several meetings, the committee reviews the prior year's budget line by line. A comparison of the allotted amount for each item (such as salaries, insurance, fuel oil, etc.) and the actual amount that was spent is examined.

A discussion follows about the possibility of lowering the amount for an item for the new budget, or perhaps, raising the amount if that seems more realistic. All figures are scrutinized and the new budget is created. This budget is given to Karen, our church secretary, to be added to the Annual Report. At the yearly congregational meeting, the congregation reviews the

budget and votes on it. Anyone interested in joining the Finance Committee, please contact me.

Laura Nelsen,  
for the Finance Committee

## **THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

The UPW members held their annual kick-off luncheon meeting at Emily and Dana Hallman's home on Tuesday, September 18th. This is a caring, enthusiastic, hard-working and fun group of women that includes all female members of our church. The group is planning the Election Day lunch, which will be held in Fellowship Hall on November 8th.

It is a long-held tradition that is quite popular with the community, which dines on clam chowder, hot dogs and sauerkraut and homemade desserts. The organization does additional fundraisers throughout the year, donating money to the Vellore Christian Medical College in India (founded 100 years ago by a member of the Scudder family), the deacons, the church for special projects, as well as other worthy causes.

A new project being launched is a Friendly Visitors Program in partnership with the Senior Center. After being vetted, members will go out to the homes of shut-ins on a weekly basis to visit them and lift their spirits. There is a huge need for this on our island, where a large number of seniors are isolated, lonely and depressed. We hope this project will grow and develop into an important mission on Shelter Island. All are welcome to participate. If you're interested, contact Laurie Fanelli or Marilyn Pysher. Come join us and put your faith into action -- you won't be sorry.

**MANSE UPDATE** The manse has been rented for a one-year term beginning October 1st.

**SHELTER ISLAND FRIENDS OF MUSIC** Concert is scheduled for Sunday, October 7th, at 3:00 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE, October 28th**, to visit more of our past congregants who helped us arrive at our 275th anniversary. Karen Kiaer and Joy Bausman will lead a brief tour after coffee hour, approximately 12 noon, to visit the sites of

our past ministers and choir leaders. Please join us to hear more about our past.



**Don't Forget: Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 4th.  
Set your clocks back on Saturday evening!**

**Reminder: Worship Hours**

Our service begins at 10:30 a.m.

*Contact Info:*

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