

# THE TIDINGS

Shelter Island  Presbyterian Church

September 2021 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Study: "Don't Quit Before the Miracle Happens..."

I almost gave up playing snare drum in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I was 1<sup>st</sup> chair and was assigned a "drum solo" in a jazz piece the band was performing entitled, "Tuxedo Junction." Although I was a skilled player even at that age, for some reason I couldn't get that solo right. I could easily read the music, but I kept missing my band director's cues, or I would get lost, or there was some other reason that was causing me to want to throw my drumsticks up in the air and give up for good. Quitting seemed like the only option.

As followers of Jesus, we have all felt like we have wanted to quit something that was challenging, but even though at times we might feel weary and without much hope, there is something in us that won't allow us to quit.

**It's been said that the moment you are ready to quit is usually the moment right before the miracle happens.** The Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:9 says, "*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*" In other words, Paul is saying, "Don't quit!" especially when it comes to our ministry together, because our "well-doing" as Paul says, will reap a bountiful harvest. Thus, even with all of our challenges, because of our faithful perseverance as the Body of Christ, little, everyday miracles are happening all around us, even though we may not be aware of them.

Yes, there are times when quitting is a virtue, and we should "quit while we are ahead" as the saying goes. Maybe it's quitting gossip/slander, or some kind of addiction, or a negative relationship? Whatever it is, if there is anything in our lives that hurts us and hurts others, maybe that is something we should walk away from for good.

And yet, when it comes to our walking our faith journey as One Body and continuing our outreach of Christ's love to one another and to a hurting, dying world, we are called to not give up before the miracle happens, to press on, because eventually those "everyday miracles" become a regular occurrence! We don't do this alone, because God is with us. God has "fingerprints" all over our church, our lives, and our community. The prophet Jeremiah said, "**I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and to not harm you, to give you hope and a future...**"

Jeremiah believed that God was up to something good with Israel, but what God had promised Israel, God has also promised to you and me, so don't quit before the miracle happens, and it will happen!

In closing, I finally got the solo right, and I'm glad I didn't give up snare drum in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, because I went on to be a three-year All State Percussionist from Arkansas and attended college on a full music performance scholarship. As you know, I still play even to this day and probably always will. Maybe that was a miracle, maybe it wasn't, but the truth remains: **Don't quit before the miracle happens!**

In Christ's love, Pastor Steve



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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION BY ELLEN GOVE

I am writing this on Labor Day Weekend—where did the summer go?! We went from “relaxing” our COVID restrictions in June and in September to bringing them back. The Session has authorized that **all** folks entering our building be masked. That includes organizations using our building. We will be vigilant and continue to track daily. We are all hoping this will be a temporary pause.

Pastor Steve and Amy are settling in and Session could not be more pleased. They are busy getting to know our community and settling in at the Manse and Church office.

We are very grateful to Chris DiOrio and Kelci McIntosh, for donating flowers each Sunday during the season. The Deacons then bring them to a shut in.

Peter Berger has always taken care of the upkeep and maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Since he has moved to Florida, Session has voted to have a local landscaper take care of the upkeep. Several dying bushes were replaced with new ones and a new water system was installed.

The Session has approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee to add a donation button through our website using [vanco.com](https://vanco.com) to facilitate online giving. Thank you to Laura Nelsen, Katherine Moore, and Jan Falkowski for setting up this method of giving.

Session received into membership by letter of transfer from Chapel By The Sea Presbyterian Church Amy Adkison (active member), James and Cheryl King (Virtual Affiliate Members).

Due to COVID restrictions last school year, we were unable to distribute our normal donations from the Colin Estate Grant to the SI High School. There was approximately \$3,000 left over from the 2020 Grant. We met with Superintendent Doelger and Mary Kanarvogel to see if there is a need involving any students. After meeting with Supt. Doelger and Nurse Mary, \$2,000 was given toward the purchase of a machine that makes metal signs to be used in technology class and \$550 was given to fill 12 backpacks with school supplies for needy students.

## CEMETERY REPORT BY JOYCE BOWDITCH BAUSMAN

On July 4, 2021, the Shelter Island Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented the second “Walking Tour” of the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church Colonial Cemeteries. This effort, led by Chapter Historian Karen Kiaer, and assisted by Honorary Regent Joyce Bowditch, encouraged the public to come and honor Island citizenry who enduring hardships as British captives during the Revolutionary War. Handouts were distributed with 40 persons, showing photos of Patriots and European settler families’ gravestones with photos and addresses of their “respective Island homes.”

THANK YOU to Roswitha Wissemann, a special “DAR Friend” and Church Deacon member who assisted with this project. Also, appreciation to Scott Kiaer, SAR Member, for assisting with gravestone signage and photo production for this activity.

## BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT BY DAN BINDER

Good News! Our Sanctuary Windows are here! This project has been active for many months and now we are at the point of installation. Thank you to all who have contributed and helped with this project. We will keep you updated when the installation will be. The Session has formed a Window Treatment Committee.

All Air Conditioning Units have been serviced in the Church building and Manse.

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

BY ELLEN GOVE

I am sure you have noticed the 75” Home Theater TV in the Fellowship Hall by now. For my 75th birthday I created a GoFundMe Account to upgrade the Church’s technology.

Approximately \$4,000 was raised. Pastor Steve, Katherine Moore, Alexandra Binder, Kimberly Atkins, Jeremy Stanzone and I met to discuss what technology we would need to be able to live-stream our services and use the Fellowship Hall for overflow.

The flat screen TV has been mounted, all the wiring has been completed, and we now have internet in our Sanctuary. Soon we will be able to live-stream our services. We will also be ready for the upcoming Memorial Services for Forrest & Jeanne Compton and Lynn Franklin the weekend of September 18th and 19th.

Thank you all for supporting this endeavor.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

BY LINDA BETJEMAN

The Adult Choir participated all summer in our weekly Sunday Worship Services as we came back together since Easter. We have recently gone back to masks but plan to continue with rehearsals and Sunday Services through the fall, depending on current Medical Safety recommendations. If all goes well, we will be hosting Friends of Music concerts, the Basically Baroque Ensemble, a concert by Linda Bonaccorso, and the Annual Community Chorus Christmas Concert in December. The Sweet Island Dulcimers group is going strong and enjoyed appearing for worship at Union Chapel this summer and will certainly be joining in at SIPC this fall. Let's hope and pray that the Virus situation stabilizes again so we can enjoy celebrating as a Church Family every week this year.

## DEACON'S REPORT

BY BRENDA BERGMAN

The seven deacons share the monthly communion responsibilities along with the duties presented at the joint meeting with Session on June 21, 2021. The communion responsibilities had returned to the usual individual cups of juice and bread squares passed during the service, but we have again been using the prepacked grapes and bread handed out as the congregants enter the sanctuary. The deacons will assist at the September memorial services for both Lynn Franklin and for Forrest and Jeanne Compton.



## MAUREEN'S HAVEN BY MARIANNE BAIRD

Maureen's Haven is a homeless outreach providing safe, warm temporary housing to homeless individuals on the East End of Long Island from November through March.

This year will be SIPC's 6th year participating by providing lunches and hot meals during the winter months. In a couple of weeks, we'll receive a calendar from the Riverhead office showing the dates for our team. This is a rewarding and worthwhile volunteer activity, and we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

In the past, we've contributed by making 30 lunches twice a month which takes less than 30 minutes. We work in a team so it's also a lot of fun. In addition, twice during the season a team prepares a delicious hot meal for the clients.

The staff members at Maureen's Haven are very grateful to all the church volunteers who support them in their work. For further information or to get involved please call: Dana Hallman at 631-377-2930 or Marianne Baird at 516-492-5763

## FINANCE COMMITTEE BY LAURA NELSEN

**EXCITING NEWS!** Check out the new addition to our Church's website. You now have the opportunity and capability to donate to SIPC securely online!

The Finance Committee has been exploring and researching various ways to add this option for you to our website. Many churches have made this way of giving available to their congregations.

After conferring with Jan Falkowski over at Southold Presbyterian Church and learning about how their "Donate" button on their website works, we've decided to use the same company ([vanco.com](http://vanco.com)) to facilitate our online donations.

Jan graciously volunteered to come to SIPC and help us set this up on our website. Kudos to our Katherine for stepping up and learning how to add this option to the website! In addition, many thanks to Jan for "holding our virtual hand" as we navigated the process!

The basics of using this method to make donations are as follows:

On the SIPC WEBSITE scroll down on the opening page to the RED "MAKE A DONATION" BAR and click on it.

On the next page click on CONTRIBUTE NOW.

At this point you can contribute, or you can CREATE AN ACCOUNT where your information can be SECURELY stored for future donations.

You will choose an option to use for your donation: CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD OR A BANK ACCOUNT.

There is an option to review your donation before you finalize it.

We encourage you to check it out and are hoping that this "EASY PEEZY" way of giving will appeal to you! If you would like assistance in setting it up contact Katherine or myself.

## MISSION TEAM REPORT BY MARILYN PYSHER

The Better World Book Club held their first in-person (masked) book discussion in Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 16. Ten people attended and we had a very impactful exploration of the book, Apeirogon about two Israeli and Palestinian fathers who had lost children in the conflict and turned their grief into action for peace. It was inspiring and hopeful. Our next book is Slavery's Descendants, Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation. This is a compilation of interviews with descendants of slaves and slavers. One of the editors, Jill Strauss, is joining us to participate in the discussion which will be held October 18 at 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall. It should be a very interesting discussion, as they always are. Join us!

We have read and discussed 12 books since our inception in 2019. In no order, they are:

Holy Envy, Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by Archbishop Desmond Tutu & His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate - Discoveries from a Secret World by Peter Wohlleben

Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future by Mary Robinson

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life by David Brooks

Our Malady, Lessons in Liberty from a Hospital Diary by Timothy Snyder

Everyday Ubuntu: Living Better Together the African Way by Mungi Ngomane (Archbishop Tutu's granddaughter)

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism by Robin DiAngelo

How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need by Bill Gates

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Apeirogon by Colum McCann

As you can see, these all deal with important subjects that support our objective to read and discuss non-fiction books that expand our minds, deepen our consciousness, enhance our empathy, and inspire positive action. You may like reading some of these if you have not previously and joining our Better World Book Club--it's very enjoyable and enlightening.

The Mission Team is eager to get back to implementing some of the projects we discussed in 2019 but unfortunately the pandemic has other ideas. We are all praying for a time of better health so we can greatly expand our activities.

## EVENTS PLANNING BY LAURA NELSEN

Many thanks to Marianne Baird and her tireless crew for the recent Lemonade Stand fundraiser!

Thank you too for all the bakers who so generously donate all the goodies to be sold. Held on the same day as the Shelter Island Chamber of Commerce Art Show and Craft Fair makes for a day filled with thirsty and hungry people. We start early in the morning and have available bagels and coffee, in addition to the traditional cookies, brownies, lemon squares, and various other home baked goodies. Many of the vendors from the show look forward to coming across the street as they begin setting up their wares. One of us usually walks around the show grounds letting the vendors know that we are across the street yet again!

A further note about a possible upcoming event that we have been looking forward to announcing is the Celebrity Chef dinners. There is a tentative thought of having the first one in October. However, due to the recent concerns about the increasing virus numbers planning is on hold. We'll keep you posted!

# CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE BY HEATHER REYLEK

Greetings to our SIPC Family and wishing you all a safe and joyous autumn filled with color, community, and faith. It's only September, but it's not too early to start thinking about ways you might help serve our Church. Our last update discussed roles you might enjoy and find rewarding. As a reminder, our next Congregational meeting is four months away. So, we want this thought, this little seed to stay in your mind as we move forward to 2022. To that end, the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) extends an invitation to all active members to consider possible nominations for the following positions:

Service as an Elder on Session, Class of 2024: This is a three-year term that can be repeated once. After serving two terms, the Elder must come off for at least one year. Session is our governing body. Elders share in governing and leading the Church in a faithful direction along with other duties. Session meets monthly and the Elders have roles in committees. A good and effective elder serves the Church as a decision maker, a leader, and a peacemaker.

Service as a Deacon, Class of 2024: This is a three-year term that can be repeated once. After serving two terms, the Deacon must come off for at least one year. It is their duty to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.

Service on the Nominating Committee: At least two members should be elders, at least one actively serving on session. One member should be from the board of deacons and others from Members-at-Large for a one-year term of office.

All offices are elected by the congregation. If you would like to propose a nomination, please contact Heather Reylek, Lee Anne Bastible, John Miller, or Cindi Griffin, our current CNC, or by leaving a message at the church office, 631-749-0805. We look forward to seeing you at Church. Bring a friend!



## LEMONADE STAND REPORT BY MARIANNE BAIRD

There were 18 varieties of home-baked cookies, bagged and displayed in assorted baskets, a tray of butter and cream cheese bagels, urns of hot fresh-brewed coffee, beverage dispensers of ice-cold lemonade and iced tea, all set in place by 8:00 am on sunny Saturday, August 21. Slowly, crafters who had set up their booths across the street showed up for breakfast, followed by Islanders and vacationers coming by for cookies and drinks and lively banter.

Three of our favorite folk musicians strummed and sang and were joined by passersby. This gay atmosphere was full of cheer and gratitude that we were all out and about again for an annual event that we missed out on last year.

By 2:00 pm we were winding down, cleaning and packing away supplies, having taken in over \$800 for our church mission work. So many volunteers contributed time, talent, and muscle to make this happen. Let's give ourselves a hand!

## KIVA TEAM IMPACT REPORT BY JOHN KERR

We loan because...We are called to be the Body of Christ in the world.

Since August 10, 2015 our 26-member team has made 1090 loans totaling \$31,600 to people who wish to improve their lives and help their families in 71 of the 77 countries where KIVA operates. Our four top countries are the Philippines at 9.79% (105), Kenya at 6.71% (72), Palestine at 6.52% (70), and Nicaragua 5.22% (56).

Our loans have been to 81% Female (872) and 19% Male (201) in the following categories: Agriculture 260 loans, Food 232 loans, Retail 181 loans, Education 101 loans, Clothing, 80 loans, and Services 69 loans.

So far this year we have loaned \$4,425 and last year we loaned \$5,800. Our most recent loan was to Manal from Jericho, West Bank, Palestine.

### **Manal's story:**

*Manal is a hardworking woman who tries her utmost to provide her family with a decent life. She is a 43-year-old, a mother of two adorable kids, living with her family in Jericho, West Bank. She has a small store for selling clothes and shoes; it's the only source of income for her. She turned to Palestine for Credit and Development FATEN to request a loan to buy a new collection of clothes for her store. This will increase her sales and enhance her income.*

ALSO...Please remember the next time you shop on Amazon, go to <https://smile.amazon.com>

where you will find the same products, same prices and at no cost to you AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favorite charity when you shop. Support your favorite charity which we hope is our Presbyterian Church, with every purchase.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We envision the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church as a spiritual heart of our small island community—a congregation that keeps its doors open to all and offers service and support to friends, neighbors, and visitors from beyond our shores.

We will encourage the spiritual growth of our Church's people in Jesus Christ through worship, service to others, stewardship, study, and fellowship with one another. We will work to increase our spiritual engagement with youth, young families, and our growing senior population.

Inspired by God's Word, we look forward to our future with faith and confidence in God's purpose for us.

AS WE BELIEVE, SO WE DO.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Sunday, September 12:** Worship Services return to 10:00 am meeting time.

**Saturday, September 18, 3:00 pm:** Memorial Service for Forrest and Jeanne Compton.

**Sunday, September 19, 3:00 pm:** Memorial Service for Lynn Franklin.

**Monday, September 20:** Session Meeting

**October 1-30:** Stewardship Drive

**Sunday, October 3:** Concert by Linda Bonaccorso

**Sunday, October 17, 4:00 pm:** Installation of Pastor:  
Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison

**November 7:** Concert sponsored by Shelter Island Friends of Music

Our Services can be viewed on our website at [www.sipchurch.org](http://www.sipchurch.org).

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HERE