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September 2018

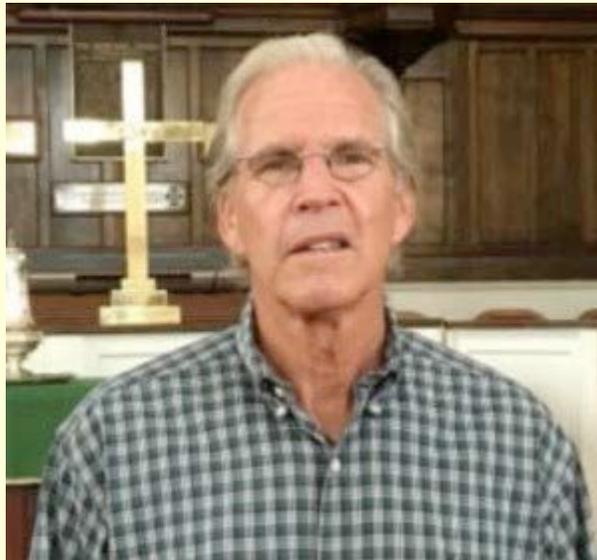
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# THE TIDINGS

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The Shelter Island Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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## ***A Hearty Welcome***

Rev. Robert Griffin arrived as Temporary Supply Pastor at Shelter Island Presbyterian Church on July 1, as Rev. Stephen Fearing departed to become pastor of Beaumont Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Although we will miss Stephen and Tricia, we are grateful for Pastor Bob's presence here and look forward to his leadership in the months ahead

## ***Words From Pastor Bob***

I was asked to provide a brief biography to introduce myself and share a bit of my background and what has shaped and formed my journey so far. My hope is that it will open a conversation as a way for me to get to know each and every one of you as well.

As a young boy I lived in Freeport, Long Island. It was a time when the only demand my mother made of me when I went out to play after breakfast on a summer's day was to come back home when the street lights came on before dark.

We could explore, test ourselves, fall down, pick ourselves up, resolve conflicts amongst ourselves, and otherwise just be a kid whose whole universe was the immediate neighborhood.

In that universe there was no sense of danger or threat from outside. No 'stranger danger' or awareness of drug or alcohol abuse. The term 'helicopter parent' was a lifetime away from being coined.

After 5th grade, I began attending The St. Paul's School in Garden City. My sister, one year younger than I, attended St. Mary's, the sister school established by the Episcopal Cathedral. A majority of my teachers were Episcopal priests dressed in black with collars. Latin was a required course and we attended chapel each morning. It was there that I received my first real sense of God and that there was someone whose presence was benevolent and not an impingement upon my freedom.

I grew comfortable with the rhythms of a higher more formal liturgy and as a young boy responded well to an environment that offered clear boundaries and rules. This carried over into my love of sports and athletic competition in which I began to excel. It was how I expressed myself.

In 8th grade my parents moved to Manhattan and I was sent to the Brooks School in North Andover, Massachusetts, an all-boys boarding college preparatory school. I would spend the next five years there until graduation. It was there that I learned to think and write and read critically.

It was there that I grew up and matured and in many ways was formed. Chapel after dinner was a required event and attending became a time when we all came together as one. The full meaning of that oneness would only be revealed to me much later.

I attended Lake Forest College on the shores of Lake Michigan, north of

Chicago, and spent some of the coldest winters I can remember.

Upon moving back to New York I worked for ABC Sports as a production assistant assigned to a producer/director team as we traveled from one live sporting event to another around the country.

This experience led me to join a very large advertising firm in New York that had just formed a division responsible for the ABC Television Network's Movie and Miniseries Division. I spent all my time between Los Angeles and New York and God took a back seat while I attempted to take the wheel of my own life and drive it where I thought it best to go.

I moved to Los Angeles on a permanent basis many years later working as an independent consultant in the entertainment business and began to drift. Something was missing and I knew not what it was. I began to find less and less meaning in what I was doing and one early Sunday morning found myself driving through Beverly Hills past the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church on Rodeo Drive.

I was just in time for the beginning of the service. It was there over time that I discovered what I was missing and that it was a who -- a person -- not a thing or occupation. It was there that I came to discover my identity, meaning and purpose and it was there that the bread and juice became the body and blood of the resurrected Christ, broken and shed, for me. It was there also, that I became close with the pastor who became a real friend and mentor and who saw in me something that I did not at the time.

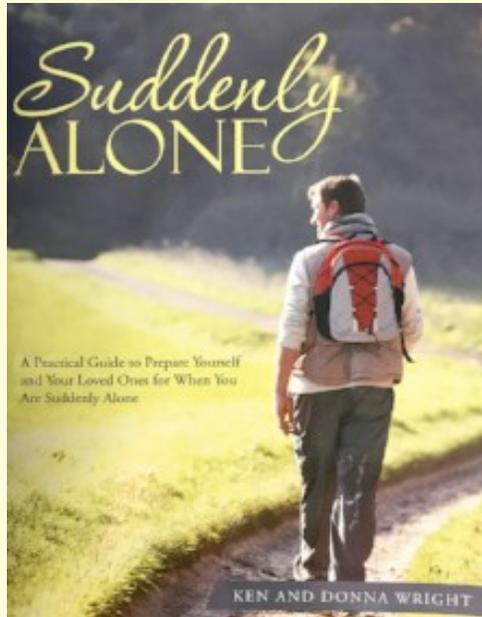
Over lunch one day he asked if I had ever considered attending seminary. The suggestion seemed so incredible to me at the time that I burst out laughing. One year later, I began attending Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. At first, I thought I would have to leave all my experience, all my learning, all my ways of being behind. What I discovered was that God would repurpose all that training to another end.

I spent many years ministering in Los Angeles in both a congregational setting and as a hospice chaplain until moving back to New York when my father required more care at the end of his life. I accepted a call to the Cutchogue Presbyterian Church and joined East End Hospice as chaplain. Most recently, I served as the interim pastor of the Middle Island Presbyterian Church at a time of pastoral transition.

In addition, I have served the Presbytery on the CPM (Committee For Preparation of Ministry), the Communications Team and currently the Board of Trustees. I look forward to our time together discerning what God has in store for his church and his people on Shelter Island.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bob

“Suddenly Alone”  
Comes  
To  
Shelter Island



## ***Mission Committee***

On Thursday, August 2, the Mission Committee sponsored a workshop for the community entitled "Suddenly Alone."

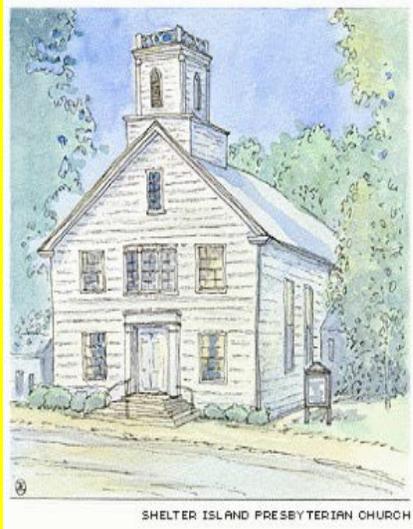
The event was presented by past members Ken and Donna Wright, who traveled from Florida to lead the event for more than 40 participants. The purpose was to help people develop a personal operating manual for their loved ones to follow should they become incapacitated or pass away.

Topics included: contacts, personal identification documents, personal information, specific assets, tax deferred and other income, insurance policies, estate planning, burial and cremation and funeral arrangements, memorials and obituaries.

The Wrights also offered pointers on household and personal safety and living independently. Various forms of alternative living arrangements were discussed.

A delicious light lunch was provided by our generous church members. The fare included salads, quiches, finger sandwiches, mixed fruit and cookies. A big thank you to all who contributed.

The feedback has been wonderfully positive. If enough people are interested, the Wrights will return for a repeat session next year. If you or someone you know would like to attend, notify Karen Tudor in the church office or one of the committee members -- John and Penny Kerr, Lynn Franklin, Marilyn Pysher.



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**Follow SIPC on Facebook**

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**Pastor Bob's Cellphone:**

631-921-9417

***Reminder: Worship Hours***

Beginning Sunday, Sept 9,  
Our service begins at 10 a.m.





## ***Banners***

At its meeting on Aug. 19, the Session approved returning the Welcome Banners to the same place they had been before the winter storm tore them down. The Session also asked the Mission Team to help come up with two new initiatives in the coming year. A member of the Mission Committee will announce the installation of our Welcome Banners during worship service.



## --275 Years--

Our church family celebrated Family, Faith, Fun and Fellowship at our Old-fashioned Church Picnic on August 12, despite the gloomy rain forecast and sweltering humidity. Family, friends and neighbors gathered in our children's playground after morning services. Cookies and lemonade were plentiful, thanks to Marianne Baird and volunteers. And yes, we had plenty of shade, played old-fashioned games and enjoyed the more modern giant parachute. Thank you to Judge Mary-Faith Westervelt for critiquing the costumes. Ice pop prizes were popular in the heat and we appreciated the costumed congregants.

Imagine wearing so much clothing a few hundred years ago without air conditioning!

Pictured here: **Mae Brigham, Heather Reylek, Peter Vielbig, Sara Vielbig and Joy Baus**

## ***Events Committee***

### ***Dessert***

In July we hosted the successful Ice Cream Social for the Community, where Jasper Yang scooped out more than 3 1/2 gallons of ice cream. While enjoying our sundaes, we played a raucous variety of games. We look forward to hosting this event next summer.



### ***Lemonade***

Our annual Lemonade Stand was also a huge success. It was stocked with dozens of cookies and bagels with cream cheese and butter. We sold about 12 gallons of ice tea and lemonade. The Events Planning Committee is grateful for the many bakers and others who volunteered to host the stand. It was a beautiful day. A special thank you to Marianne Baird and Holly Cronin for co-chairing this event.



### ***Dinner***

Celebrity Chef is gearing up for another successful season. We will be adding new chefs and bringing back chefs who have volunteered before. Our first dinner is scheduled for the month of October. Watch for further announcements.





## ***Kiva Update***

Our SIPC KIVA team has had a wonderful impact on the world's people. In three years, our 30-member team has made 475 loans totaling, \$13,585 in 63 of the 76 participating countries. The largest percentage, 6.18 percent, went to Kenya, 5.97 percent to Cambodia, 5.97 percent to the Philippines and 4.5 percent to Vietnam.

Eighty-one percent of our loans went to women and 19 percent to men in the following sectors: Agriculture, 112 loans, Food, 88 loans, Retail, 78 loans, Education, 73 loans, Clothing, 32 loans, and Services, 21 loans.

Our SIPC Session has made 55 loans. Even if you are not directly involved with the team, the Session has included you in our effort. We have one member who lives in the United Kingdom who has joined our team and 105 other teams around the world, having an enormous impact helping others achieve their dreams. Three of our members allow the team captain to manage their accounts for them, collectively making 24 loans. This arrangement can work for you if you are not computer savvy. For help setting this up, please contact John Kerr at, 631-749-0414

## ***Building and Grounds Committee***

### ***Manse***

Since Pastor Bob lives on Shelter Island, the Session and the Building & Grounds Committee have been discussing whether to close or rent the manse while we are in transition. We have decided that renting the manse for 10 months from September to June would be the best option. Thank you to Dan and Deb Binder, Christine Gallagher, Ken Pyscher, John Kerr and Ellen Gove for all their work getting the manse ready.

### ***Solar***

The paperwork for our loan from the Presbyterian Church Investment & Loan Program has been completed and approved. Our monthly loan repayment will be \$376.56, which is far less than our current \$510 monthly electric bill. The Shelter Island Town Building Department has approved our application and the paperwork for the inverter connection for PSEG has been filed. In addition to saving money, we are doing our part to help save Mother Earth, by being the first public building on Shelter Island to “Go Green!” A big thanks to Ken Pyscher and John Kerr for their work in getting this project started and to Peter Vielbig and Karen Tudor for overseeing all the paperwork.

### ***Mermaid Water Filtration System***

Because of corroding pipes at the church building, the Building & Grounds Committee recommended that a water filtration system be installed. In August, Mermaid Water Systems put in a system that would raise the PH in our water to prevent corrosion in our pipes



We just received notice from Amazon Smile that as of May the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church has received \$239.55 from Amazon purchases made by our members. If you haven't signed up for Amazon Smile, consider doing it. Our church benefits from your purchase.



## **Reminder: Worship Hours**

**Beginning Sunday, September 9, our service returns to 10:30 A.M.**

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