

The Shepherd's Log

Eastchester Presbyterian Church
3154 Fish Avenue
Bronx, New York 10469

March - April
2018

Dr. Brian John, Pastor
Carlton Knight, Assoc. Pastor
Dr. J. Perry Wootten, Pastor Emeritus
Vol. XXIX, No. 2





REFLECTIONS



T. E. A. M.

“For since death came through Adam, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

-1 Corinthians 15:21-22

Together

At Eastchester, we have a rich history, from our first service 87 years ago on October 5, 1930 to the present, God has kept this church together. Our church has learned to embrace change. Change, even when necessary, is never easy. It is a process. Most of us no longer churn our own butter by hand; we no longer use horse and buggy for everyday transportation. Two decades ago it was uncommon to have a cell phone. Times have changed. As our methods change to be relevant, resonate, redemptive and rejuvenate with our current times, the message of salvation never changes. Together, we have relied on the word of God, which reminds us that in our human weakness we are made strong by God's grace (2 Corinthians 12:10). As reformed Christians, together we take comfort in the last point of the popular acrostic attributed to John Calvin, known as T.U.L.I.P., the “P” stands for the perseverance of the saints. Our future is bright because through the Holy Spirit's guidance we will grow together.

Each

Each one of us is part of the growth and is responsible for the continuation of our church. Think about a bridge: water is at the bottom, yet a bridge allows hundreds of thousands of vehicles to cross over the water from one side of town to another. Each of us has experienced the goodness of God and we are vital parts of this bridge to bring people from one side to Christ's side on God's T.E.A.M. It has been said that each of us is challenged to give God the best of our “time, talent and treasure.” Each one of us has a responsibility to God and our sisters and brothers in this part of God's vineyard.

Accomplishes

As I continue to learn about our past it excites me about our amazing future. Through a season of transition, we have come out on the other side and we have accomplished this unity, together. We accomplished this by being selfless. In the past two months we have seen a resurgence of excitement, energy and momentum. One of the many things we have done in this short time was our married couple's Valentine's eve dance on (February 13, 2018). There were nine couples enjoying the warm feelings of romance, sumptuous food, and dancing. We were inspired as the couples shared how long they have been married, ranging from eight years up to sixty-one and a half years of marriage.

More

Eastchester, there is more for us to do in 2018! More lives to be changed, more children to be taught the word of God in a safe, loving and nurturing church, more people to visit and pray for: the sick, shut ins, and imprisoned and those in hospitals and nursing homes. Remember, Jesus told his disciples that they would do greater works than these. (John 14:12). Let us use this verse as fuel to do more as God's T.E.A.M.



Rev. Brian John

Mom's Kitchen: Sharing God's Love

God's Love We Deliver is a non-profit group that delivers cooked meals to the disabled. Mom's Kitchen delivers God's love through home-cooked meals in EPC's social hall. On special holidays, volunteers deliver meals to the homebound.

The organizers of Mom's Kitchen recognized the need to feed our neighbors physically, as well as spiritually. We all recall the throng that followed Jesus after observing His miracles and listening to His teachings. Jesus, in His love and compassion, was concerned about their need for food. Thus, He miraculously fed the 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. The only thing that is miraculous about Mom's Kitchen is that it continues to serve hot meals every week. Mom's Kitchen receives food from Food Bank of NYC and Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP). In addition, the program receives funds from the church and donations from EPC members and friends.

Mom's Kitchen is open 11 months of each year. It is closed for the month of August. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. During 2017, Mom's Kitchen served 70 children, 1762 adults, and 624 seniors (a total of 2,456 people). Visitors are also given dinners to take home. Many people make it possible for Mom's Kitchen to stay open. EPC members and friends volunteer their time and talent on weekly basis, special occasions, or whenever and wherever needed. While some volunteers may have health and personal problems, their dedication to helping others is strong and enables them to carry on. We are grateful for all volunteers. In 2017, Mom's Kitchen was supported by the following volunteers:

Heather Allen
 Christiana Attuh-Mensah
 Loretta Booker
 Beverley Burnside
 Eleanor Donnley
 Frank Hall
 Sandra Harris (Chef)
 Jennifer Harrison
 Marcia Hartley
 Paula Hamilton

Altamont Jackson
 Rachel Jessamy
 Carlton Knight
 Joyce McDonald
 William Middleton
 George Mitchell
 Inez Nathan
 Angella Phillips
 Marvin Phillips

Frances Scott
 Lilli Sisco
 Valera Thomas
 Carolyn Watson
 Lena Wells
 Eddie White
 Marjorie Williams
 Jay Wynter
 Alton Young

During our Thanksgiving Dinner, Eleanor Donnley single-handedly delivered 14 meals to homebound EPC members. Presently, Mom's Kitchen needs volunteers for the following tasks: meal preparation and serving; setting up and cleaning; storing food from the Food Bank; assisting with administrative work. If you are able to assist on a part-time or weekly basis, please contact Angella Phillips.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

A mother, in Langston Hughes' poem "Mother to Son," relates all of the hardships she has undergone. She says, "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair." She concludes by saying that, in spite of her troubles, she has been climbing and is still climbing. Through the ages there have been women who, in the face of opposition or trials, were determined to achieve goals. Like the mother in Hughes' poem, they were persistent.

This March, the theme of Women's History Month is **NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED**. The theme originated from a statement made by Senate Majority Leader McConnell when he tried to silence Senator Elizabeth Warren. He said that he had repeatedly warned her that her long speech violated Senate rules. His final words were, "Nevertheless she persisted." There are many women today and in the Bible who refused to be silent. Their persistence resulted in success.

The effectiveness of persistence is emphasized in Jesus' Parable of the Persistent Widow. The parable tells how the widow, through constant prayer and numerous appeals to an unfair judge, received justice. We are reminded that if we are persistent in prayer God will respond.

Another persistent woman in the Bible was Priscilla, a strong leader and teacher in the early Christian church. In spite of the risk to her life, she opened her home for worship. As a disciple of Christ, she was committed to spreading her knowledge of God and Christ. Scripture notes that Priscilla, with her husband Aquila, taught Apollos about God. Apollos was only familiar with baptism by John. Priscilla's evangelical spirit is notable in the growth of the early Christian church.

A woman who refused to remain silent is Esther, who risked her life to save the lives of her people. With trepidation, she appeared before the king without being summoned. She was aware that approaching the king without being summoned could result in her death. Yet, she did so in order to plead her case.

Five phenomenal women, who broke the silence of generations, were the daughters of Zelophehad. According to Jewish law, only sons could inherit their father's property. Zelophehad had no sons. When he died, his daughters could not share in the inheritance. The five daughters went before Moses and other leaders and appealed to them for the right to inherit. Moses prayed to God and was told to grant the daughter their share of the family inheritance. Eventually, the law restricting inheritance to sons was changed for everyone.

These remarkable women in the Bible remind us of the person we can be as Christians. Perhaps, during the month of March, we can reacquaint ourselves with their stories. And, in addition to remembering the women of the Bible, this might be an appropriate time for celebrating the life of a persistent woman we have encountered in our lifetime.



A Visit from the Thornton-Donovan School

On Wednesday, February 7, 2018, one hundred of the high school students of Thornton-Donovan School of New Rochelle NY, visited our church. Our own, Jordan Drew, is a senior there. The school has been visiting houses of worship in New York City and Westchester County. The Head Master, Douglas E. Fleming Jr., faculty and students are so impressed with Jordan that they wanted to visit his church.

Members of EPC met with the students and shared their experiences and history of the church. Those on the welcoming committee were, Jordan's grandmother, Brenda Gayle, Associate Pastor Carlton Knight, Fredericka Bell-Berti, Mary Kirnon, Heather Allen, Se-beng Koh and Lloyd Johnson.

The students were very enthusiastic and asked questions about the church and our individual faith. One of the students played the piano and another, the drums. A group of them, including Jordan sang, *Amazing Grace* and *How Great Is Our God*, which were videoed. Some of us also took pictures.

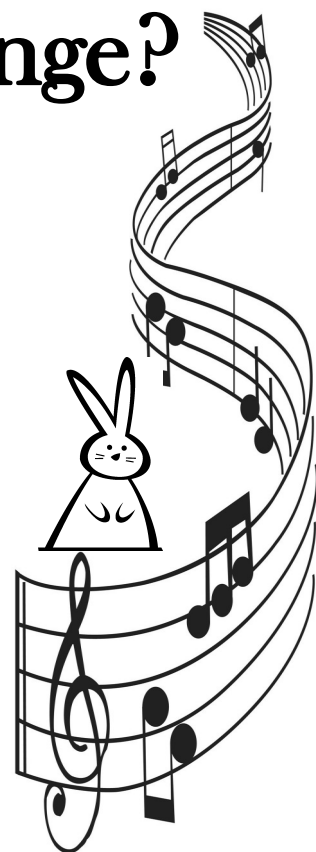
We will try to include the videos and photos on the EPC Facebook Page or the church's website. Thank you, Jordan. EPC is also proud of you.

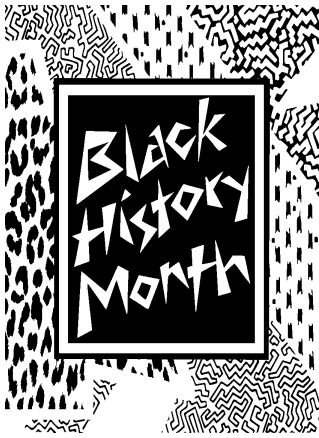
The More Things Change?

In Psalm 150:3, David exhorts: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." In Psalm 145:3, he says: "Every day I will praise your name forever and ever." Over and over again the psalmist tells us to praise the Lord.

On the occasion of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, "the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices." Throughout the Christian era, believers have praised God in different ways. Some clap, some dance, some shout "Amen" or "Hallelujah"! The universal form of praise is song. There are those who like to sing only the old hymns, others who prefer spirituals, and many who prefer gospel. What is interesting is that the message is always the same. In what one would consider the changing church, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" becomes "I Love the Lord" or the more upbeat "My God Is an Awesome God." The message is always: We love, we worship and we serve an awesome God.

Again, in worshiping our Lord, one might ask: Does it matter whether we read the Scripture in KJV, NIV, NRSV, NLT or other translation? We are still informed by the truth of God's Word.





There was an innovation in the observance of Black History Month this year at Eastchester Church. After a talk each week introducing the congregation to an African-American person of meaningful accomplishment, a member of the congregation, born in Africa prayed in his or her native language. Theodore Ahovi, formerly of Togo, prayed on the first week. The person who prayed on the second week was Jennifer Ansung Osei, who prayed in a language from Ghana. Jennifer then presented the translation in English. The third Sunday was a snowy day and, although there was a talk on an historical person, there was no African prayer. On the last Sunday of Black History Month, Sunday Etsekhume read Scripture and prayed in a Nigerian tongue and ended the prayer with a moving song.

Choir Director Jackie Bergland introduced the women's choir from the Celia Cruz Bronx High School which was augmented by a mixed choir. This group performed a rousing song called, "Better" that proclaimed that things will be better because God is in control. Later, this same group, along with the Chancel Choir, sang a beautiful, inspiring arrangement of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

As has been the custom, there was an international feast following the service with a wonderful and delicious spread that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

We give thanks to Sonia Nelson and the entire Culture Committee for a fine commemoration of Black History Month.



As of the first Sunday in March, we will be half-way through the Lenten season. Lent is the time when we strengthen our faith by concentrating on Christ's teachings and works, and the events of Holy Week, Good Friday and, most importantly, Resurrection Sunday. Lent is a time for remembrance and revival.

In THESE DAYS devotion for February 15, 2018, the author reflects on Lent as a time to do more than give up something that we enjoy. He states: "We are encouraged to give something up in order to replace that with something that will bring us closer to God." Giving up certain foods is a praiseworthy sacrifice, but there is much more that we can do. The reflection encourages us to increase our spiritual reading. Living in the Word might unfold more answers to the question: What's so amazing about grace?



At the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 28, 2018, Elders, Deacons and Trustees were elected to the Class of 2021. We wish to thank those whose terms had expired and were not eligible for re-election, for their service over the past six years.

Elected to the Session were Tania Bubb, Fredericka Bell-Berti, Nathaniel Christian III and Shirley Rutherford. Nathaniel Christian begins a second term as a Ruling Elder.

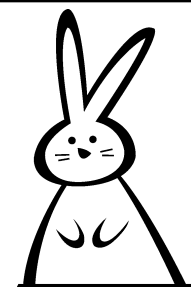
The Board of Deacons welcomes newly elected Valorie Grant, Paula Hamilton, Janicke Harrigan, Maureen Henry and Tanyka Wilson. This is a second term for Deacons Valorie Grant, and Tanyka Wilson.

Newly elected as Trustees were Marva Chamberlain, Winston Isaacs, Mercella Matthews, Errol Smith and Richard Wadie. This is a second term for Winston Isaacs, Mercella Matthew and Errol Smith.

Sunday, February 4, 2018 was the date for the rites of ordination and installation.



The following article was inadvertently omitted from the last issue of The Shepherd's Log.



Farewell!



A little over two years ago, when Pastor Phil came to Eastchester as Interim Senior Pastor, his first sermon was entitled, "What's On Your Bucket List?" It seemed only fitting that at his farewell party on December 31st, he was presented with a bucket containing gift cards and notes from members and friends of the congregation. The party was held following the 10 am service and almost everyone went down to the Social Hall to express their love and appreciation for his service among us.

Sisters Angela and Joan Phillips and Lillian Lawrence presented a lovely floral bouquet to Pastor Phil's wife, Pastor Betty Tom. This was to show their gratitude for the pastoral care and concern shown by Pastor Phil on the passing of Breaint Lawrence, the husband of Lillian and the son of Joan.

At the party there were lots of tasty foods including a large cake bearing a handsome photo of Pastor Phil and many willing hands to help set up and serve the food. On the cake was written the words, "Thank you & Godspeed." We are thankful to Pastor Phil for his ministry with us and pray God's blessing on him wherever his next ministry may be.



A Note to Readers...

Nancy Foote and I have been the editors of the Shepherd's Log for 27 years. We now feel that it is time to give the opportunity to someone who can offer a different voice and take our church newsletter into the future. Editing the Shepherd's Log does not take hours and hours away from your busy life and, keep in mind, it is published only 6 times during the year.

If you feel a call to serve in this way, please contact me:
(914) 969-5708; LVF829@aol.com

-- Lorraine V. Fells



Square Dance

Friday - May 4, 2018

7:00-9:30 pm

Featuring
Professional Caller

Howard Richman

Admission: \$10.00

Free Refreshments





PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Sue: Are you staying for the Presbyterian Women meeting today?

Joy: I had not planned on staying. I'm not a member of that ministry.

Sue: Oh yes you are and so are all the ladies of the church members. We try to help alleviate some of the world's needs, such as hunger, clean water, etc.

Our meeting will be over in one to one and a quarter hour. We meet on the 4th Sunday after the 10 am service.

On the 4th Saturday we meet at 11 am to 12 noon for Bible study.

Joy: I have some time. I will join you today.

Sue: Thanks, Joy!

-- Eleanor Donnley

Our Sympathy-

Several former members of Eastchester Church enjoy receiving the Shepherd's Log by mail. Many of these belonged to the church in the 1950s and 1960s and have relocated to areas in other parts of the country. When we receive news about early Eastchesterites, we wish to share it with the people who would remember them well. The news is not always happy news.

Carol (Mickey) Messerschmitt has informed us that her husband, John, died on December 5, 2017. Their home is in Pittsfield, MA. Many will remember Fred and Gale Pascopella. Gale died in November of 2017. Bill Mower, the husband of Mary Evans Mower died last spring. The Pascopella's home is in New Rochelle, NY and the Mowers lived in Utica, NY.

A few of us at Eastchester know these families and send our sincerest condolences to them all.

We extend our deepest sympathy to:

Dorothy Skerritt on the passing of her husband, Renwick in late January;

Sterling Shaw on the passing of his uncle who resided in Jamaica;

Stacey Warren and family on the passing of her grandfather.

*We pray that all of these families are able to find peace
through their faith in God's love and grace.*



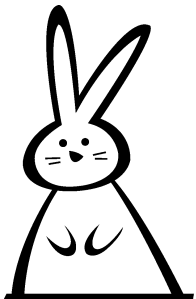
Thankful
FOR YOUR KINDNESS

Eastchesterites have proven our love and concern for one another over and over again. Deacon Frances Scott recently lost her mother and she wishes to thank the many people of the church for the cards, notes, phone calls and words of encouragement that she received during her mother's illness and after her passing. Let us continue to keep Frances in our prayers.

Find the Bunnies!




There are 7 Bunnies scattered around this issue of The Shepherd's Log.



Can you find them all?

Start with the one shown above.



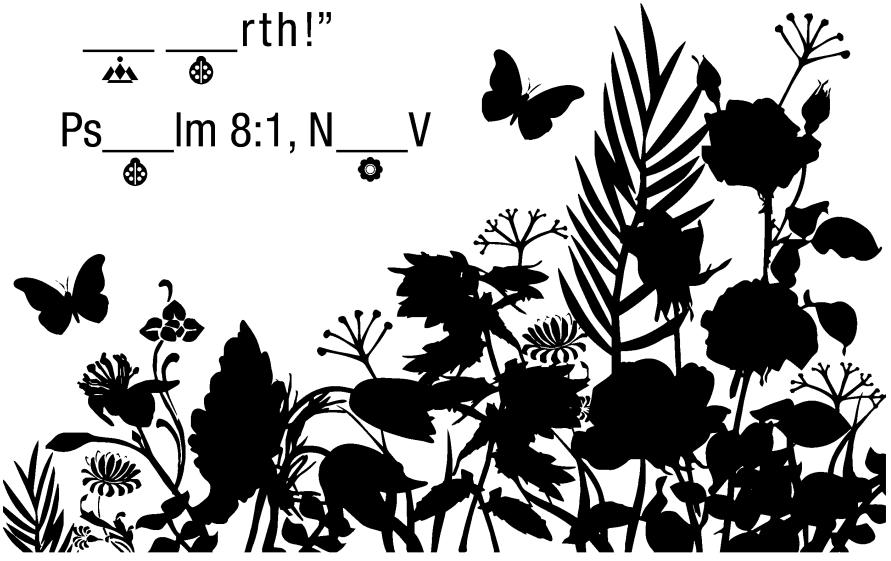
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

"L__RD, __ __r L__rd, h__w
 m__j__st__c __s y__ __r
 n__m__ __n __ll th__
 __ __rth!"
 Ps__lm 8:1, N__V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
 Psalm 8:1, NIV



RESURRECTION HOPE



Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

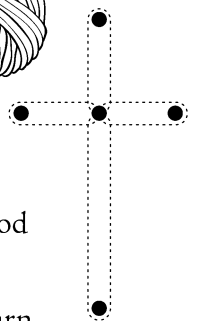
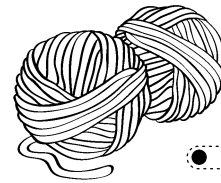
$2+2 = \underline{\quad}$ united	$2 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$ death	$7+6 = \underline{\quad}$ resurrection
$3 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$ certainly	$18-16 = \underline{\quad}$ have	$4-1 = \underline{\quad}$ been
$0+1 = \underline{\quad}$ if	$2 \times 4 = \underline{\quad}$ we	$13-1 = \underline{\quad}$ him
$2+3 = \underline{\quad}$ in	$20-6 = \underline{\quad}$ like	$2+5 = \underline{\quad}$ his
$2 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$ be	$8+3 = \underline{\quad}$ with	

"For 1 we 2 3 4
 with him 5 a 6 like 7 ,
8 will 9 also 10 united
11 12 in a 13
14 his." Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.

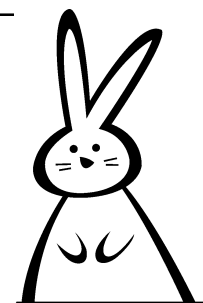


What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

What you do:

1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.



March

- 10 Fasting Service – 9am-noon
- 17 Church Spring Clean-up Day –10am-4pm
- 18 Girl Scout Sunday
- 24 Stewardship Workshop-9:30am-12:30pm
- 25 Palm Sunday
- 26 Passion Week Monday Service – 7 pm
- 27 Passion Week Tuesday Service – 7 pm
- 28 Passion Week Wednesday Service – 7 pm
- 29 Maundy Thursday Communion Service-7pm
- 30 Good Friday Service – 12 noon - 3 pm

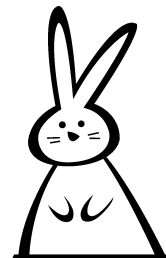
April

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 7 Officer Training – 12—1:30 pm
- 7 Scholarship Workshop Presentation
- 8 Music Ministry Concert – 4 pm
- 13 Prayer Vigil – 7 pm
- 14 Philemon Breakfast – 10 am—noon
- 21 Grace Gathering – 9 am – noon

*Zumba classes - Mondays and Thursdays 7-8pm &
Saturdays 9-10am
The Girl Scout troop-Saturdays from 11 am to 1 pm*

THE SHEPHERD'S LOG

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Nancy L. Foote, Design



Please observe the DEADLINE DATES for submitting
articles for the next issue of
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MAY - APRIL 24
JULY - JUNE 22

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