

The Shepherd's Log

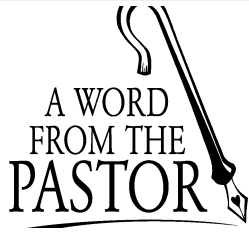


Eastchester Presbyterian Church
3154 Fish Avenue
Bronx, New York 10469

July - August
2018

Dr. Brian John, Pastor
Carlton Knight, Assoc. Pastor
Dr. J. Perry Wootten, Pastor Emeritus
Vol. XXIX, No. 4

Kids
aren't the church
of the future;
they're the
church
of
today!



REFLECTIONS



“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.” Colossians 1:21-22

In the first century Paul wrote this letter to the church in Colossae. It was an ancient city of Phrygia in Asia Minor that faced a challenge that all churches face today: to share the Gospel of Christ with everyone. The church approached its responsibility by distinguishing Jesus Christ from other religions. Paul told the church that Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation. In his response we learn three invaluable things about the supremacy of Jesus over all other religions.

First, Paul teaches them about the Incarnation. This theological word means when God entered this world as an ordinary human being. This is prolific; it reinforces the validity of the Gospel. God’s plan includes prophecies fulfilled by Jesus. Paul teaches that Christianity is from God, unlike other religions created by humans. Jesus is God, who came in human flesh to be born of a virgin, live a sinless life, die an atoning death, rise in three days just as the scriptures promised, and will come again for his Church.

Second, Paul instructs the Church about God’s transcendence. This theological word means, that God can never be completely described by human concepts. Furthermore, all of our doctrinal ideas cannot fully exhaust God’s colossal nature. One of the great hymns of the church illustrated this truth, it says about God, “Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all praise we would render, O help us to see ‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!” God has no form so our human expression “invisible to human recognition” is what we’ve supplied to grapple with the “otherness of God,” meaning that God is so vastly above all of His creation, that He is *other* from all that he created.

Finally, Paul admonishes them that Jesus is the firstborn of creation. In its doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that both Jesus and Mary were sinless. Conversely, those of us who are Protestant, and reformed Christians derive our beliefs only from the Bible. The Gospel of St. John tells us, “In the beginning was the Word (a reference for Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” It continues affirming “He became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

In conclusion, we, the church today, are compelled to tell others the meaning of these three things; First, Christ’s incarnation, He came into flesh to die on the cross in our place. Second, God’s transcendence: God has all humanity in awe of His creation and His love for the world he created. Third, Jesus is the firstborn. Obviously, this could not mean in human chronological order because we know the first human was Adam. This is pointing us to the reality of salvation, Jesus’ resurrection from the dead showed how He was the firstborn. This eternal life with God only comes from the Church sharing the Gospel with others in its city.

Rev. Dr. Brian John

Tuesday, Midday Bible Study at EPC



Are you ready to learn? We highly recommend the Tuesday, Midday Bible Study at EPC. It's held on Tuesdays from 12 Noon to 1 PM at Eastchester Presbyterian Church (Bronx NY). It will open your eyes and expand your knowledge about the Bible, about being a Christian and about being a Presbyterian. Our pastor, The Reverend Dr. Brian Daniel John not only teaches us what God has to say, we also learn from the perspective of reformed theology. Rev. John makes comparisons with other theologies and Christian denominations. This comparison helps us to understand what it means to be Presbyterian. One of the resources he uses is the Book of Confessions, *Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, to help with this understanding. Most Presbyterians are familiar with the Book of Order, *Part II of our Constitution*.

We have participated in many Bible studies during our lifetime. The National Council of Presbyterian Men created, with the assistance of seminary professors, study guides for men's Bible study. They were used here at Eastchester for several years. Man in the Mirror (www.maninthemirror.org) is a Christian men's ministry resource. Presbyterian Women has the Horizons Bible Study in which several of our women use. We have participated in a small group Home Bible Study and other Bible studies at this church and other churches.

Although we don't believe we should compare Bible studies, churches and preachers, we are very impressed with the Tuesday, Midday Bible Study at EPC. It is outstanding. We encourage YOU to attend. The pastor leads and teaches the lessons, which have a theme, on the first three Tuesdays of the month. On the fourth Tuesday (*sometimes there is also a fifth*) he answers questions we may have about the Bible or our theology. When we meet, it is in a friendly, nonjudgmental atmosphere. *Like in the early church, we are all with "one accord" – the Greek word is "homothymadon" which means, "with one mind, with one passion."*

There are 10 to 12 members currently attending and we start and finish on time. You are welcome and encouraged to come and be with us. God willing, we will see you on Tuesday at 12 Noon. <>



Lloyd & Dora Johnson



The Scholarship Brunch, held on June 16, 2018, was truly a warm celebration. It was inspiring to observe our young adults interacting with each other. They reflected on their past and how, by spending time worshipping and fellowshiping together as students at EPC, they developed mutual respect and friendship.

Many members of EPC who no longer have students graduating came out offering their support to our young people.

A lovely brunch was prepared and served by the Scholarship Committee, as well as a Special Graduation cake.

Award essays were read by Rachel Jessamy, Patricia Simmonds and Ashley Williams.

Each student graduating who will attend college this Fall will receive a Scholarship Award.

We are blessed to celebrate the graduation of seven outstanding young adults:

Krystyna Davis, Alysia Sangster, Jordan Drew, Patricia Simmonds, Rachel Jessamy, Ashley Williams, and Briana Robinson.

Thank you, parents for insisting that graduates attended church when they were too young to decide for themselves. Thank you for our great teachers who enforced and supported their interest and growth.

Thanks Maya Blake, our Mistress of Ceremony. Thank you, Ashley Davis and Jabari Gallier for sharing your freshman year experiences.

Special thanks to Rev. John and Rev. Knight for participating, offering scripture and prayer.

Thank you, Scholarship Committee, for continuing to be there each year inspiring and contributing to higher education for our young adults.

Ida Martin





All of the essays submitted by the graduates at the Scholarship Brunch were very good. Rachel Jessamy's came in first.

“THE PRINCIPLES I HAVE LEARNED THROUGH MY CHURCH AND HOW I INTEND TO USE THEM IN MY FUTURE”

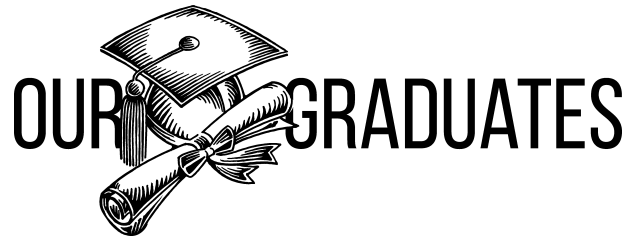
Being a member of Eastchester Presbyterian Church has taught me many lessons that I feel will be beneficial to me in the future. I have learned many principles and values that I hope to take with me and use throughout college and any of my future endeavors.

One of the first principles I learned was to always trust in God. Growing up in this church, I have always attended Sunday School. One of the first things our teachers try to get us to understand is that God loves us no matter what. I was taught in song that “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” This was a message that stayed with me throughout my time in Sunday School and even afterword. Knowing that God would be there for me regardless of the situation I was in was very comforting. It has helped me a great deal in high school, and I am sure it will do the same for me in college and my future in general. If I begin to feel like the demands of school are weighing an unbearable burden on me, I will know to turn to God for guidance. My bible will be my source of peace and the key to maintaining my strong relationship with God.

Another principle I have learned throughout my time in church is the importance of giving. From years of bringing in whatever spare change I had, sealing it in an envelope, and giving it in for offering, I have learned its significance. I was taught that it is always better to give than to receive. I remember the story of the poor widow being used as an example of how we as Christians should live; giving our all even if it does not seem like much. I hope to carry this principle with me in the future, and remember to be generous and put the needs of others before my own.

The final principle I have learned through this church is to be a beacon of light wherever I go. When I eventually go off to college, I wish to bring with me all the principles I have learned, and let it be known that I am a child of God. Matthew 5:16 says, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven,” and I hope to do just that.

Overall, I am very grateful to my parents for bringing me up in the church, and I am especially grateful to all the members of Eastchester Presbyterian for their contributions to my upbringing and all that they have taught me. This church has created a solid foundation for me with which I hope will lead me on the right path to live a happy and successful life in Christ.



We will miss seeing certain people on Sunday mornings beginning this fall. Some of these young people are Sunday school teachers and are part of the liturgical dance group and some also perform in the Bell Choir. Yes, they will be missed, but we are happy and proud that they are about to begin the next chapter of their lives as college freshmen.

Brianna Robinson graduated from Essex Street Academy and will attend University at Buffalo/SUNY Brockport. She will major in biology under a pre-med track with hopes of becoming a radiologist or general practitioner.

Jordan Drew is a graduate of Thornton-Donovan School and will attend Howard University where he will major in computer science. He expects one day to start his own production company.

Rachel Jessamy graduated from Alexander Hamilton High School and will attend the University of Pennsylvania. Rachel has not yet decided on a major.

Kristyna Davis graduated from the High School for Health Professions and Human Services. She will study nursing and dreams of becoming a family nurse practitioner.

Alysia Sangster graduated from Harry S. Truman High School and will attend Baruch College to study actuarial science with the aim of becoming a consulting actuary.

Patricia Simmonds is a graduate of Frederick Douglass High School and will head off to Brooklyn College to study statistics and economics. Her goal is to work on Wall Street as an economist.

Ashley Williams is a graduate of Pelham Lab High School. She will study Gender and Women's Studies at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. She further plans to attend college in Sweden and is currently learning the Swedish language. Her goal is to do humanitarian work with refugees.

We have their names; let us pray for each one as they go off to college.



Update on Our "KIDS"

We have some news about students and recent graduates that we are certain will be of interest to all at Eastchester Church:

Our favorite cellist, Noah Koh, has graduated from Julliard;

Kinsley McNulty graduated with a B.A. from Yale;

Kassandra Jessamy has received an MBA from Utica College;

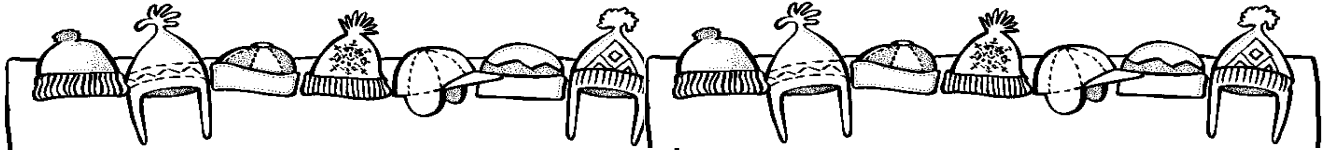
Grace Wynter, who has just completed her sophomore year at Yale, is in California where she is interning with Hutch Parker Entertainment and Joel Schumacher Productions. It is Grace's ambition to become a screenwriter and these internships should be of great help in reaching that goal. As if these jobs are not enough, Grace is also working at Salt & Straw Ice Cream Shop;

Eyram Wayem graduated from Shenandoah University where he majored in Criminal Justice. He plans to continue his studies by getting a Master's Degree in Forensic Science. He has not decided on a university as yet, but Virginia Commonwealth University is under consideration. Eyram and his family moved to Virginia a few years ago, but remain in contact with some at EPC.

Shari Rutherford has already earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Swarthmore College and a Master of Statistical Practice from Carnegie Mellon University. She is currently researching doctoral programs in Education. Shari is employed at the University of Valley Forge as an Institutional Effectiveness Analyst and adjunct professor of mathematics. She writes that she is creating a manual of standard operating procedures so that there is a transfer of knowledge for the next person in her position and for future training purposes. Shari has traveled widely having been to South Africa, England, the Caribbean, Spain and France. At the end of June she will be traveling to India with others from Valley Forge College to volunteer at a school. She asks that we keep her in our prayers.

This year seven of our young people will be leaving for college. This report is proof that our contributions to the Scholarship Fund are investments that will continue to pay dividends for years, even generations, to come.

Caring



In the fall, when football season starts, someone I know goes with her husband to see the Baltimore Ravens play. On the way to the stadium they often pass homeless people whose plight touches her heart, especially when the weather gets colder. She decided to combine her love for knitting with her desire to serve. She knits hats which she places in bags along with warm socks and McDonald's gift cards. These bags go to grateful (and probably surprised) recipients.

I am happy to know this someone. She is my daughter, Anita.



Lorraine V. Fells

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

There are 6 Beach Umbrellas scattered around this issue of The Shepherd's Log.

Find the Beach Umbrellas



Can you find them all?

Start with the one shown above.

Confirmation

Madison Adams, Janet Christian, Alex Garces and Gabriel Mboutou were confirmed on Sunday, June 3, 2018, thus affirming the promises made by their parents and sponsors at their baptisms. It was both a solemn and joyous occasion. Many in the church have known these young people since their births and their baptisms and have watched them grow into the fine people they are today. Elder Nathaniel Christian, who along with Elder Yvonne Wynter, teaches the Confirmation Class, gave a spirit-filled sermon entitled, "Just Living By Faith." Eastchester Church is grateful for the ministry these two elders perform.



Pastor John officiated at two weddings held at the church during the month of June:

On June 9, 2018, Leslie-Anne Dwarka and Richard McManus were united in marriage.

and

The wedding of Floyd Toppin and Althea Hogarth was held on June 23, 1018.

We pray that God will bless these marriages and these couples for many, many years to come.

Our Sympathy-

Our deepest sympathy is extended to these members of our church family:

Kaye Gogoh and family on the passing of her sister, Sandra Forde

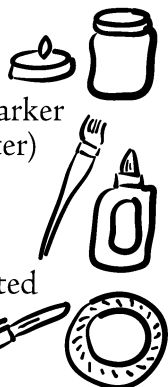
June Levene and her family on the passing of her brother, Ralph Blake.

A STARRY
LIGHT

Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handiwork — including you!

What you need:

- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light



What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.



Wonders of creation
Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)

PSALM 147:4, NIV

Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV





GOD'S amazzzzing BEES

God created bees to pollinate flowers and make honey. Psalm 119:103 says God gives us something that's even sweeter than honey.

Directions: Find the word that fits each clue. Then write the answers in the correct numbered honeycomb shape to complete Psalm 119:103, NIV.

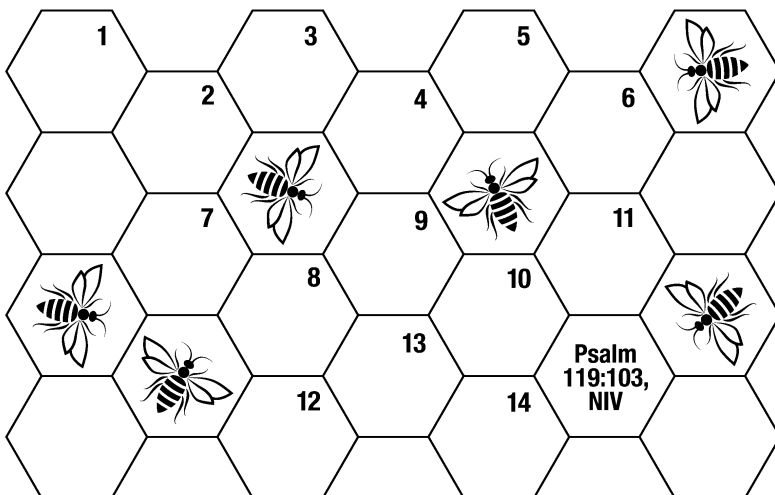
CLUES

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. rhymes with cow | 8. the tongue's job |
| 2. opposite of sour | 9. more sweet |
| 3. pronounced "R" | 10. rhymes with pan |
| 4. rhymes with four | 11. golden liquid |
| 5. Letters create ____. | 12. Pleased __ meet you. |
| 6. not too or two | 13. rhymes with fly |
| 7. rhymes with by | 14. body part |



WORD BANK

than your to are
sweet sweeter How
my honey mouth
words to taste, my



Answer: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103, NIV

BUMBLE BEE BALLS

Make these yummy treats as a summer snack.

What you need:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ oz. instant oats
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup instant milk powder
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 40 mini chocolate chips
- 20 slivered almonds
- 40 sliced almonds
- Adult help

What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, oats, honey and instant milk powder into dough. If too dry, add more peanut butter or honey.
2. Roll dough into 20 long balls. Place them on a cookie sheet and refrigerate.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips and place them in a zippered baggie. Cut a tiny bit off one corner.
4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Squeeze thin lines of chocolate as stripes onto the bee bodies.
5. Use two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a slivered almond for a stinger and two sliced almonds as wings. Enjoy!



July

- 2 Vacation Camp Begins
- 8 Summer Sunday School begins
- 14 Tag Sale – Circle of Love
- 28 Bus Trip – Philemon Ministry

August

- 4 Family Day at Dorney Park/Wild Water Kingdom
- 10 Vacation Camp Ends
- 11 Back-to-School Event – Stewardship Committee
- 12 Seniors' Sunday
- 12 Circle of Love 'Cook-in' after service
- 19 Summer Sunday school ends
- 25 EPC Picnic – Presbyterian Men

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

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