

The Shepherd's Log

Eastchester Presbyterian Church
3154 Fish Avenue
Bronx, New York 10469

May - June
2017

Phil Tom, Interim Pastor
Carlton Knight, Assoc. Pastor
Dr. J. Perry Wooten, Pastor Emeritus
Vol. XXVIII, No. 3



*How very good
and pleasant it is
when kindred live
together in unity!*

Psalm 133:1



REFLECTIONS



LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD!

It is hard to believe that as we move through the month of May 2017, I will have served as your Interim Pastor for two years! During this time, we faced several congregational challenges but with God's guidance, we addressed these challenges in a caring and constructive manner. We addressed our differences with an open hand and a listening ear. We made difficult decisions in balancing our budget and reducing the hours for our staff members.

Yet, even during these challenges, God has blessed our church family in so many ways. Our ministries with our congregation and community continues to grow and expand. Our 8:00 a.m. worship service led by its spirited worship team continues to grow in spirit and in numbers. Our 10:00 a.m. worship service is blessed by its music ministry, choirs, praise dancers, bell choir, and drama ministry. Our Deacons, Elders, Bereavement Committee and Circle of Love ministry continue to provide care for our members who are ill, hospitalized or experiencing grief and loss. We continue to learn more about God's Word through our Grace Gatherings, bible studies and home bible study groups. Our Sunday School ministry and youth ministry, CYD continue to thrive under our loving and faithful adult leaders. Our Farrell Learning and Education Center (FLEC) has increased the number of children participating in its after-school ministry. A new Girl Scout Troop was organized at EPC last fall. Our ministry to our neighbors in need continue to be graciously served by our weekly feeding ministry, Mom's Kitchen and our Deacons' Food Pantry. We continue to serve our community through our Philemon Ministry, Boys Scout Troop, AA and NA groups. We have recruited new leaders to serve our church family but we still need to broaden our leadership base and to raise up new leaders. God has blessed us with 13 new members. Our church family continues to be generous in its financial support for our mission budget. Our Finance Committee is working hard to find new ways to increase our income and assets. Our Trustees work long and hard to maintain our church home. We now have a social media team working to upgrade and expand our use of social media. Finally, we are blessed by a wonderful and dedicated staff team.

One of the conclusions of our Mission Study last year was that if our Eastchester Church Family is going to continue to flourish and to have a bright future, that we must reach out with our larger community. After we successfully raised the funds last year to build a new dome with the cross on top of our sanctuary roof, one Elder said that a new dome will not necessarily bring in new folks to our church family. He is right. There are a lot of nice church buildings around our city that are empty inside because they failed to reach out with their communities. We must continue to reach out and to share God's good news in Word and in deed with our neighbors. Our church family continues to reach out with our neighbors through our School Backpack giveaway program sponsored by our Stewardship Committee, our dynamic community music concert sponsored by our Music Committee, the health fairs sponsored by our Presbyterian Women, through special services such as our Revivals, Good Friday and Watch Night services, and our Evangelism Committee and Men's Group going out and meeting our neighbors. Our Presbyterian Women even went out in the cold weather last December to sing Christmas Carols during Advent for our neighbors coming thru the Gun Hill subway station.

During the past year, we continue to expand our partnership with community groups to open our doors and to connect with our neighbors. Last year, we hosted the 47th Precinct Community Council meeting and community meetings for New York State Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie. On May 16, 2017, we will host the 47th Precinct Police Summit and in August we will host a community event for Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark. During these community meetings, we have taken the opportunity to build new partnerships and new relationships by welcoming our neighbors and telling them about the life and mission of our church family.

During these past almost two years, we have been blessed by God with many opportunities to serve one another and our neighbors. As our church family looks forward in securing a new Senior Pastor, the future for our church family is bright and is fill with lots of wonderful new possibilities to grow spiritually, numerally and missional. Praise be to God!

Pastor Phil

OOPS! In the last issue of The Shepherd's Log, the notice for the Square Dance showed the incorrect date. We apologize for any confusion.



Square Dance

Friday - May 12, 2017
7:00-9:30 pm
Admission: \$10.00

Featuring
Professional Caller
Howard Richman
Free Refreshments

Sponsored by
The Membership Committee



Mantra

We've all seen pictures – maybe even cartoons – of a person sitting cross-legged in a Yoga pose, humming a mantra. A mantra is a word or sound repeated as an aid to meditation. Supposedly, it helps a person to concentrate. Someone meditating might just hum, “Ommm...” over and over again. I have a problem meditating as my mind jumps from subject to subject, so a single sound doesn't hold my attention for long.

One Sunday morning before the service began, I was browsing through the hymnal. I came across a hymn that was unfamiliar to me. The words are attributed to St. Patrick of Ireland from the 5th Century: “I Bind Unto Myself Today.” It was the coda that caught my attention.

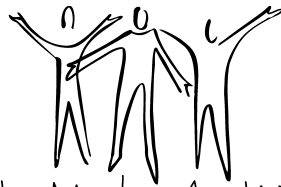
Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.



What a blessing it would be to hold these words in our hearts and meditate on them daily.
This for me would be a meaningful mantra.

Lorraine V. Fells



New Members Are Joining

We welcome Vanessa Johnson, Patrick Taitt and Debbie Sabitri Jaipersaud who were received into our church family by the Session on Sunday, April 23, 2017. Vanessa is an employment counselor with the New York State Department of Labor. Patrick supervises bus operations for the Borough of Manhattan for MTA New York City Transit Authority. Debbie is Operations Manager, Department of Radiology for the Montefiore Medical Center.

We give all the praise to God for adding Vanessa, Patrick and Debbie to our church family!

Are You Interested

The Presbytery's Committee on Congregational Ministry & Nurture has responsibility for church development, education and nurture, and racial and ethnic ministries and immigrant fellowships. The Committee is recruiting new members. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please speak with Pastor Phil by May 7.

Find the American Flags!



Armed Forces Day is May 20th.

Memorial Day is May 29th.

Flag Day is June 14th.

There are 6 American Flags scattered around this issue of The Shepherd's Log.

Can you find them all?
Start with the one shown above.



FLEC VACATION BIBLE CAMP IS LOOKING FOR COUNSELORS/ VOLUNTEERS, AND CAMPERS WHO ATTEND THE EASTCHESTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNSELORS/ VOLUNTEERS CLOSE MAY 31, 2017. REGISTRATION FOR CAMPERS IS NOW OPEN AND IS ON-GOING. CAMP STARTS: JULY 3, 2017 AND ENDS AUGUST 11, 2017. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SEE MRS. SKERRITT OR MRS. MARCIA HARTLEY, CHURCH Administrator

CONGRATULATIONS to "OUR KIDS"!

Dr. Camille Clare

The Harlem Fine Arts Show (HFAS) annually honors persons who are successful in their chosen fields and are positive role models for young people. In the words of an article dated February 9, 2017 in the Westchester County Press, "The goal of this year's event is to showcase and celebrate African Americans in the medical field and raise awareness about medicine as a career choice for young people." Eastchester Church is proud that Dr. Camille Clare is one of this year's honorees. Camille, who was raised in our Sunday school, is the daughter of Elder Courtney Clare and Mrs. Daphne Clare. She is an active member of the Scholarship Committee.

The National Medical Association, the Empire State Medical Association, the Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society, the Lincoln and Harlem Schools of Nursing and BlackDoctor.org have all joined HFAS in the "Salute to African Americans in Medicine (AAIM)." The celebration took place at Riverside Church on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

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To quote the announcers on TV infomercials, "...and that's not all!" Dr. Camille Clare has been invited to participate as a Grand Marshal of the African American Day Parade on Sunday, September 17, 2017. The sponsoring organization is African American Day Parade, Inc. The organization cites Camille's "tremendous accomplishments with the community" as it honors African American health professions in a "Salute to Better Health."

Some well-known persons have served as past Grand Marshals including Denzel Washington, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Mayor David Dinkins, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Director Spike Lee, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Queen Latifah and Paul Winfield, Johnnie Cochran, Melba Moore, Imam Izak-EL M. Pasha, Henry (Hank) Carter, Hazel Dukes, Tom Joyner, Congressman Charles Rangel, Rev. Al Sharpton, Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie, Dr. Wayne Fredericks, Dr. Steve Perry, Sabina Lamb and many more.

Leslie-Anne Dwarka

We're happy to share Leslie-Anne's excitement as she looks forward to attending Grad School at Mercy College in August 2017. Leslie-Anne will be studying Communication Disorders/Speech-Language Pathology

Tanisha Spence Huffstead

We share with Joan Spence the happy news that her daughter, Tanisha Spence Huffstead, has passed the NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses) and has earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the College of New Rochelle. Tanisha may now add "RN" to her name. Tanisha grew up in our Sunday school and was confirmed here at Eastchester. She is now married and the mother of two adorable girls.



Baptisms

Pastor Knight baptized two children on March 26, 2017: **Zayana Suazo** is the daughter of Ashley Samuels Johnson and Yovanni Suazo and was born on September 4, 2007; **Carter Johnson** was born on January 6, 2016 and is the son of Patrick and Ashley Samuels Johnson.

On April 2, 2017, Pastor Phil baptized **Taliya** and **Tazir Treasure**, born April 21, 2016. The twins are the children of Janell Harvey and Theodore Treasure.



Our Sympathy-



Mrs. Cecelia Woolery and her family have our deepest sympathy on the passing of her sister, Hazel on March 12, 2017.

Trevor Wilson passed away on April 10, 2017. Trevor was the husband of Deacon Ruth Wilson and the father of Tanyka Wilson and Andrea Glasse. The Wilson family has our sincere sympathy for its loss.

Deacon Nadine Finch is mourning the loss of her father who passed away in Jamaica. We extend our warmest sympathy to her at this sad time.



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

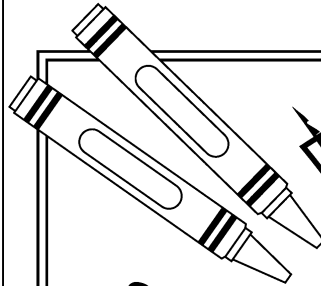
What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother's Day gift.

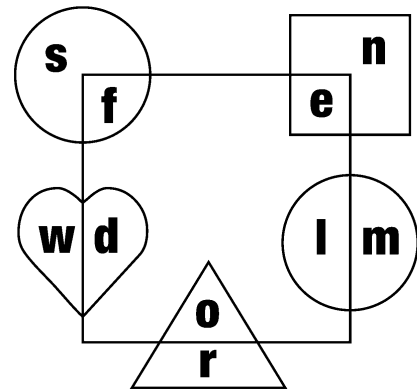


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



"Consider how the wild



grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even



in all his splendor was



like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV

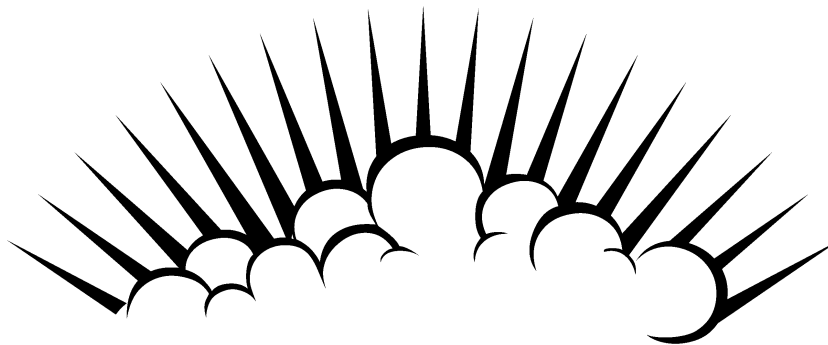
Answer: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV



Our heavenly Father

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.



"H_ w_ll c_ll _ _ t t_ m_,

'Y_ _ _ r_ m_ F_th_r, m_

G_d, th_ R_ck m_ S_v_ _r."

Ps_lm 89:26, N_V

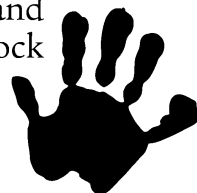
Answer: "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'" Psalm 89:26, NIV



Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.

What you need:

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



What you do:

1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift — and a hug!

Coming Events



MAY

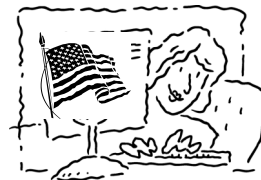
- 12 Square Dance
- 13 Street Evangelism – 10 am
- 13 Tres Dias Women's Reunion Group – 12 -1 pm
- 14 Visitors' Sunday

JUNE

- 3 Grace Gathering
- 4 Confirmation Sunday
- 10 Tres Dias Women's Reunion Group – 12-1 pm
- 11 Children's Sunday
- 16-17 Annual Church Retreat
- 17 Scholarship Brunch – 9 am-noon
- 23 FLEC Moving Up Ceremony
- 24 Street Health Fair (Presbyterian Women)
- 25 Women's Sunday

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
THE SHEPHERD'S LOG.

ISSUE - DEADLINE

JULY 2017—JUNE 22
SEPTEMBER—AUGUST 25

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Happy Mother's Day  **Happy Father's Day**