

The Peekskill Presbyterian Church

# The Messenger

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 8

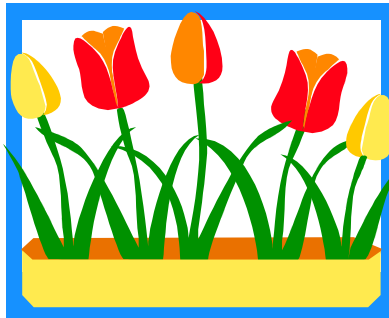
APRIL 2011

## Easter Flowers

Easter Sunday, with its joyous worship service, is not many weeks away. The traditional Easter Flower Memorials bring to the service a beauty befitting the joy with which we celebrate the Resurrection. Equally fitting is the thankfulness expressed by the memorials for the lives of those who have passed on to the Church Triumphant.

On **Easter, April 24**, we will publish a special Memorial insert in the bulletin. The money collected for the memorials will be used to purchase flowers to grace our sanctuary. After the Easter services, the Deacons will distribute the plants to our shut-ins and to those who have had a death in the immediate family since last Easter. Please note your donation does not buy a plant, but a memorial listing. It is suggested that a minimum donation of \$12 be made for your listing.

Please return the attached form to the church office or place it in the offering plate **no later than April 10**. Contact the church office at 737-3322 if you need additional information.



### Easter Memorial Flower Donation Form

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Easter Memorial listing below:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

# Lenten Calendar

Palm Sunday will commence with a processional starting at the Memorial Garden (weather permitting).

The Worship Committee, along with Barbara Devir, has also planned a Tenebrae Service on Maunday Thursday (April 21st) at 7:30 pm. This will be a most meaningful worship with Communion being celebrated.

Our church is joining Trinity Boscobel United Methodist Church and the Reformed Church of Cortlandtown for a sunrise service Easter morning at approximately 6:30 am (inquire at the church office for the exact time). The location for the Sunrise Worship is the Waterfront Park in Verplanck. \*\*

The Men's Club of PPC will present their (famous) Easter breakfast at 8:30 in the Social Hall. Bring your appetite and enjoy good food and fellowship followed by our worship.

Communion will be celebrated during our Easter Worship Service which begins at 10:00 am.

\*\*Directions: The Waterfront Park is at the foot of Broadway in Verplanck. Make a left at the stop sign and there is a parking area and open space along the river by a fishing pier. Dress warmly as the Hudson River may present some chilly winds!!

## On the Death of My Brother

On January 10, 2011 my brother Paul, who was 63 years old, died. It was not a good death, for death is never good. It separates us from those we love. It cuts off the possibility of loving more. It freezes everything. However it is when someone dies is the way it is going to be forever. We all miss him. We wish we could talk to him. We wish we had just a little bit more time. We are heartbroken. Paul's death, like everyone's was not a good death.

On the other hand, his dying was pretty well done. This was in itself surprising. No one in our family seems to die. When I was 5 years old, two of my great grandparents died. I was barely old enough to comprehend. I lost another great grandparent when I was a senior in college. It seemed appropriate. My mother's parents died when I was a young mother. They saw me married, held my child. My father's parents died when my daughters were in high school. Our family's longevity shielded me from dying, death, and mourning. Until Paul died.

It seemed to come out of the blue. Paul was being treated for colon cancer and was doing very well. He was waiting to recover from his surgery so that he could do one last round of chemo. After that there would be one more surgery to put Humpty Dumpty back together again, and he would be as good as new, as if it never happened.

In the middle of December, Paul experienced some pain which turned out to be pancreatic cancer, a very aggressive form. Within a month he was gone. So what was the good part of his dying? What could be well done about such a quick demise? It was the way our family rallied. Inexperienced as we all were with such things, we managed to have a Christmas that wasn't dominated by his illness (his wish was not to let "everyone" know until after the holidays). After that everyone was there, for Paul and for each other. Except for one more brief visit to the hospital, Paul remained at home, in his own bed, surrounded by family. He had time to put things in order, as much in order as things can ever be. He talked with everyone about everything, including his illness and coming death. There were no machines or tubes or heroics. There were walks in the neighborhood, conversations, hugging, kissing, stroking, letting go, and hanging on. There was lots of ice cream too. Paul's death was full of loving and that loving will be his legacy. For that I will be forever grateful to him.

Last week someone gave me a book to read. It is Talking about Death Won't Kill You, by Virginia Morris. I wish that I had read it a few years ago. Now it helped me see why Paul's dying was so well done. It also answered a great many questions that didn't get answered in the weeks he was dying. This book is not a "how to" manual. It acknowledges that there are many different kinds of death and many kinds of people who face death. It is an honest and open invitation to

think about death and dying, each of us in our own way, especially when we are not in a crisis situation.

I would enthusiastically recommend it to all of you who will experience the death of a loved one or be close to someone who has that experience or will one day die. That pretty much takes in all of us. This book will make it all less scary and more beautiful. - *Barbara Devir, CLP*

## **Congregational Life**

The South Salem Presbyterian Church will be using our sanctuary as a neutral pulpit on April 10. Our Pastor Nominating Committee has visited area churches to hear prospective candidates for the position of pastor for our congregation. This is an opportunity to experience first hand one of the processes the committee must include in their search. Please give the South Salem Pastor Nominating Committee a warm welcome! - *Nancy Horton*

## **March Session Highlights**

Communion was held on March 6. Emmanuel Nicholas Asare was baptized February 13. (Both events had been approved by session.)

Christine Button served as lay commissioner to the February 13 presbytery meeting. Presbytery approved the new form of government overture and revisions in ordination standards (elimination of the “fidelity-chastity” requirement in favor of a broader statement of standards, as it was explained to us, approved on a split vote) that had been approved by the General Assembly and sent to the presbyteries for their approval.

Winter continues to ravage the church budget with extra costs for snow plowing and fuel. The recent rains added additional costs for boiler motor replacements and the pumping of water from facility basements. Removal of lead paint-polluted soil on the eastern side of the building will be an additional cost. At present the year-to-date budget is in deficit by \$9,618.

Session approved the hiring of Jim Terhune as treasurer. Jim brings an impressive resume of experience, including experience as a treasurer at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown.

Session approved a joint ecumenical Easter sunrise program to be held at the Verplanck waterfront at 6:30 am. Participants would be invited to a breakfast in our social hall before the regular 10:00 am. Easter service. Session also approved the celebration of communion at the Easter service.

Session approved a grant proposal submission to presbytery that would, if approved by presbytery, add a significant audio visual-electronic communications/internet component to our church with a myriad of uses.

Session supported reaching out to the Peekskill artist community to provide a venue in our church to display their art during their annual arts weekend.

Session approved the use of storage space in our Christian Education building by the Lord’s Attic Thrift Shop for a June 18 tag sale. This will enable the thrift shop to offer larger pieces of furniture which is in demand. With these pieces the thrift shop is expected to raise significant funds for the church.

Session also approved an application process to “Extreme Makeover,” the TV reality show, to do a church makeover for our church. Stay tuned.

## **Let’s Fill the Lobster Pot!**

You may have noticed the “lobster pot” hanging from the bulletin board in the CE lobby. That pot represents the progress of fundraising for this summer’s Mission Trip to Maine. Each lobster represents \$100, and we need to get all 35 lobsters into the pot. There are lots of ways that you can help.

First and foremost, you can sign up to come along. The trip will run from July 16-23, and all church members, regardless of skill level, are welcome to join in. Sign up by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Secondly, on May 21<sup>st</sup> your Mission Trip Team is participating in a city-wide tag sale, which means that we'll need stuff to sell. We'll happily accept any of your back-closet booty . . . your timeless treasures . . . your old junk . . . anything that you no longer need and are willing to donate to the sale. When you find something to contribute, contact Linda Johns or Nancy Horton to take it off your hands.

May 21 will also serve as the first of this year's combination car wash and bake sales. So, on that day, be sure to grab a tasty treat while your car gets shined up on your way to the tag sale.

Finally, you can contribute to the Mission Trip in the collection plate. A check made out to the Peekskill Presbyterian Church with the notation "MISSION TRIP" on the memo line will go a long way to give help to people who desperately need it, and will support a hugely effective team-building effort for our church.

Thanks in advance, for all you can do.

## Stewardship Corner

The members of the Stewardship Committee would like to thank *Fay Meneses* for sharing her Time, Talents and Treasure at Peekskill Presbyterian Church.

Born in New York City, Fay joined the Riverdale Presbyterian Church when she was twelve. Fay has been a member of PPC since 1971, shortly after she and her husband Rene moved to the Peekskill/Cortlandt area to raise their family. They are the parents of a son, Rene Andre, and daughter, Leslie. They also have 3 granddaughters and 2 great-grandchildren. The Meneses will be celebrating their 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary this June. Fay worked at Maryknoll for 29 years. She retired in 2003 as assistant to the treasurer.

Fay has contributed to our church in many ways. During the early years of her membership, Fay taught Sunday school. She has recently completed two terms on the Board of Deacons, serving as vice moderator. The Deacons have her to thank for the informational notebooks that are given to board members.

As a counter of the offering, Fay remains in the church office after the rest of us have gone home from worship on Sundays. She helps enter the offerings into the computer system and prepares the bank statement for deposit. Fay has generously given her time in this service to the church for several years.

Fay is also the treasurer for The Lord's Attic Thrift Shop. In addition to being a board member and regular volunteer, Fay also brings her love of dolls as a service to the shop. Known as the "Doll Doctor", she frequently takes home dolls that are donated to the shop and gives them her special brand of tender loving care. The refreshed and repaired dolls are then returned to the shop in "like new" condition for resale. Fay also speaks Spanish, which she puts into practice when serving the Hispanic customers at the shop.

Thank you, Fay, for being such a wonderful steward of our church!

## April Birthdays



*Deleted to protect your privacy online*

## Peekskill Presbyterian Church

# April 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Every Sunday 9am Confirmation 9:15am Choir 10am WORSHIP Sunday School	Church Office Hours 8am-2pm, M-Thrs, 737-3322, 737-7822 fax PeeksPres@aol.com	Thrift Shop Hours (845) 538-2669 Tues, Wed., Thrs. Sat. 10-3pm	Every Sunday 12-2:00 Gates of Heaven Service, also Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm		1	2
3 <u>4th Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30am Breakfast, 9am Cong Life Mtg. 11:30 Good News Mtg 12-1:30 GOH Service	4  7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284, Social Hall	5 7:30pm Christian Ed. Mtg. 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	6 10:30am Bells  6:15pm Lord's Attic 7:30pm Ch. Choir	7  7:30pm C&B Mtg.	8 12noon Women of HOPE Birthday Lunch 4-8pm 2nd Fridays Youth Group	9
10 <u>5th Sunday in Lent</u> Neutral Pulpit for S. Salem Presbyterian 12-1:30 GOH Service	11  7:30 Boy Scouts Mtg.	12 2pm Yorktown Soup Kitchen Prep 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	13 10:30am Bells  7:30pm Ch. Choir	14 8am Men's Breakfast Bible Study  7pm Session Mtg	15	16
17 <b><u>PALM SUNDAY</u></b> 11:30am Prayer Chain/Mission Mtgs, 7:30pm Scout Ldrs., Room 101	18  7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284	19 7:30pm Deacons Mtg., 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	20 10:30am Bells MESSENGER ARTICLES DUE  7:30pm Ch. Choir	21 5:30-7:30pm Headstart Parents Mtg <b>7:30pm MAUNDY</b> <b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Communion Service</b>	22 <b><u>GOOD FRIDAY</u></b>  7:30 Book Group Mtg.	23
24 <b><u>EASTER</u></b> 8:30am Breakfast 11:30 am Stwrdsip Mtg 12-1:30 Gates of Heaven Service	25  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26 6pm Mission Soup Kitchen Prep 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	27 10:30am Bells  7:30pm Ch. Choir	28 8am Men's Breakfast Bible Study	29	30  7:30pm Bridge, Bolden's