

# The Bell Ringer

of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

**A Friendly Church; So When You Come – Bring A Friend**

September 2010



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## Footprints



The summer is gone and we're moving into a new season again. It's been a busy one for me, but one that has also allowed some time for rest and thoughtful musings. As I pondered in my last footprints article, we experience the full circle of life in our community and this continued to be true over the summer.

We were blessed with two more births: Silas Miller, Bill and Sukey Walter's latest grandson and the second son of Beth and Josh Miller and Makayla Bjornstad, Joe and Barbara Moder's second great-grandchild. We also lost a young and beloved Sweet Hollow member: Tracy Mora. While that tragedy is one that will linger in our hearts, it also heightened for me the closeness and love of our family of faith.

We at Sweet Hollow are incredibly blessed to be a part of this church family. Whether you have been coming to our church for years, months or only days, you can't fail to feel the warmth that people here share with one another.

While I was away with my daughter during the first two weeks in August, I was often on my own.

Grace is blossoming into a wonderful person who managed to find a cohort of teens wherever we went this summer. This is exactly right and appropriate, but it left me somewhat at loose ends. I ended up spending time considering the value of community: people you know and have known for years, who care about you and for whom you care in return.

You may know that I was an "army brat." My father was in the military for the first 8 years of my life and as a result, I moved for the first time when I was two weeks old and many, many times after that. I believe that is part of why I am resilient in changing circumstances and also why I pick up people's accents or manners of speaking after being around them for a short while. I'm subconsciously assimilating to new situations as quickly as I possible.

Even after my family settled in Arkansas when I was in third grade, we continued to move almost annually. I lived four different houses in six years as my father pursued a law degree and upward mobility. This background means that I get "itchy" after any length of time being in the same place. I

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# Sunday School News

by Carol Keil

## Christian Ed News

The Christian Ed Team is pleased to announce the opening of the 2010/2011 Sunday School year at 10 a.m. on Sunday September 12th!

**Nursery/Pre-K lessons** will be led by Grace Segers. Connie Zhang will continue to provide adult supervision as well.

**K-5<sup>th</sup> grade lessons** will be led by CE Team members: Anthony D'Angelo, Laura Fallon, Sandra James, Carol Keil, Frank Sansone and Maureen Sansone.

**Pre-confirmation lessons** for children in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will be led by Melissa D'Angelo and Denise Moder.

**Nursery care** is available each week, provided by Connie Zhang.

The first 5-week lesson series for children in pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade features the familiar story of *Noah and the Ark*.

Mandatory **Child Safety and Protection Policy** training will be held on **Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>** following worship for all those working with children who have not been previously trained.

## Welcome Home Sunday

All Sweet Hollow members and friends are invited to join us for a special celebration to welcome the Fall worship season on **Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** and enjoy fellowship at the **Welcome Home Sunday BBQ** following worship. This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend to worship at Sweet Hollow!

Activities will include water games so don't forget your bathing suits and towels. The CE Team will provide hamburgers and hotdogs, condiments and beverages; **we welcome your contributions of salads, side dishes and desserts.**

**Your help assisting with set-up and clean-up for the BBQ is greatly appreciated. Please plan to arrive at 8:45 a.m. to help with set-up.**

## Women4Women Starts a New Season

Women4Women was active over the summer in small gatherings and supportive ways. Twice, we went to Manhattan to give blood or platelets for Nema Livingstone, managing to do a good thing while having a good time as well. We also got together with some of the women from Gathering of Light Multifaith Fellowship to see the movie "Eat, Pray, Love" and ponder those three activities in the life of Liz Gilbert and in our own lives.

Now it is fall again and we are ready to set our schedule for the upcoming season. We'll have our first W4W get-together on Monday, October 4th at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite main dish, salad, side dish or dessert to share. We'll enjoy a sumptuous meal and plan our year together!

## Prayer Corner

This list of beloved members and friends of the church for members and friends of Sweet Hollow to pray for during the month of September.

1. Deborah Verma
2. Shawn Verma
3. Sara Verma
4. Eleanor Waters
5. Alice Wansor

## YOUTH GROUP

### Mission Trip News

The Youth Group Mission Trip over the summer of 2010 was wildly successful. The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow and the Garden City Presbyterian Church joined forces for the third year in a row, but this year they did something different. Fourteen young people and two pastors went to Washington D.C. to serve communities in need. Those from Sweet Hollow were Alexandra D'Angelo, April Fallon, Jessica Fressle, Dorothy Landkammer, Grace Segers, Annalise Thode, Amanda Vione and Pastor Rebecca. From Garden City, we took Kobe Gyau, Clark Boden, Pete Cianciotta, Brooke Harrison, Jeremiah Lee, Joe Watson, Renee Watson and Pastor Wanda Hughes.

In scorching heat of over 100 degrees, they worked outdoors in long pants and close-toed shoes all over the City and surrounding suburbs. They cleared an elderly woman, Mrs. Robinson's backyard of rampant growth. They picked up hundreds of cigarette butts and other detritus, cleaning a park that is being reclaimed for the children in its area. They made sack lunches and delivered them to homeless people in local area parks, having conversations and sharing smiles along the way. They worked in a soup kitchen preparing meals for literally thousands of people. They worked in a community food bank bagging and organizing hundreds of meals for delivery to the terminally ill. They worked in a furniture reclamation center, arranging staging areas and cleaning and clearing



Supervisor Brandon of "Food and Friends" teaches Dorothy Landkammer, Pastor Rebecca and Clark Boden how to bag meals for delivery to terminally ill patients still living at home.



Dorothy, Anna and Amanda sort their bags before filling them.

### Youth Group Save the Date

The Youth Group had a great summer, but now it's time to get started again with our regular fall programming. This year, we'll be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. starting on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The only 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday we will not meet during 2010 is the day after Christmas, Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. All who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited. So save the date and we'll see you all on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.!

## Worship Team News

by Margaret Wolf

We would first like to express our thanks to the following people who filled in at the pulpit for Pastor Rebecca at various times over the summer months: Rachel Vione, Margaret Cook, Glorya Johnson, Maria Joy Williams and Rev. Tom Castlen. We are glad to have Pastor Rebecca back but also greatly enjoyed hearing new (and old) voices over the summer!



In addition, Homecoming Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, when the choir will return to fill the sanctuary with the music of their collective voice. We will also enjoy a Welcome Back BBQ outdoors following worship. We hope to see everyone there and invite you to bring a signature salad, side dish or dessert if you care to do so. Please contact Carol Keil at 631-421-1181 if you are able to bring a dish to share.

## Footprints (continued from page 1)

wonder where I'm going next and what it will be like there.

I'm aware that this is a very different scenario than most of the folks that are in the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow's community. I've been blessed to hear many of your stories and quite often, they include having been born and raised on Long Island (even if it was the Brooklyn or Queens section) and having a strong familial connection here. Even those who were not raised here usually grew up in the Northeast and have lived on the Island for many years and happily so. Perhaps there are more of you than I know that can relate to my history and to a certain wanderlust that longs for new places and new adventures. I look forward to hearing those stories too.

Yet this year, I discovered something new while on vacation. I discovered that I was really missing my home, my cats, my community of faith. I was missing YOU. The relationships that people build at the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow are special. They have a depth and a breadth that goes beyond political views or socio-

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## Prayer Shawl Ministry News



Pastor Rebecca gives Alice Wansor the Prayer Shawl knit for her as thanksgiving for her work in this ministry and to bless her during and after knee replacement surgery.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to bless numerous hand-knit or crocheted shawls each month for those who are celebrating or going through a time of struggle. Our faithful leader, Alice Wansor, underwent knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, August 31st and knitter Barbara Moder oversaw the making of a shawl in shades of turquoise for her. Almost everyone who has knit or crocheted over the years added a stitch or a bit of fringe on this special gift. The shawl was blessed during worship on Sunday, August 15th.

While Alice won't be leading us at our next meeting on Thursday, September 21st, we will still be gathering from 1:00—2:30 p.m. to knit or crochet, share stories and bless completed shawls. Please join us in the Parlor if you would like to participate in this wonderful ministry.

## MISSION TEAM

by Charlotte DeSanti

It sure seems like the summer goes by in a heart beat sometimes. One minute spring is ending and the whole summer is ahead and boom ..... it's fall again. The time of year when Mission Team goes into full gear!

The first items on our agenda are the sharing bags of school supplies and healthy snacks for the children of the Huntington Station Enrichment Center. The bags are already in the Sanctuary. Please take one or two and return them by September 12th, when they will be blessed and then delivered to the children. We will also be collecting sharing bags of clothing for the service men and women of our country later in the fall to be blessed close to Veterans Day. If you have any items of clothing that you will no longer need please put them aside. Clothing for all sizes, ages and seasons are needed.

The next BIG EVENT is our ANNUAL HARVEST FAIR. The fair is scheduled for Saturday, October 9th (Columbus Day Weekend) from 11 am to 5 pm. There is no rain date. Our banner this year will be hung on Depot Road and Thompson Place near the old location of the South Huntington Public Library. We are expecting a large turn out. We have reached out to the community over the last couple of years with our Fair and Pumpkin Patch. We are making a name for ourselves and people look forward to our Fair and month long pumpkins sales in our "Great Pumpkin Patch"! Your help in making this a success is much needed. If you can devote a few hours of the day, please let me know at: [Lopus71@aol.com](mailto:Lopus71@aol.com) or call me at 631-423-4243. If anyone can devote the entire day that would be even more wonderful. We need a lot of volunteers this year. We also are still looking for more vendors. If you would like a table or know of someone who might, the fee is \$50 and the application can be found on our church web site: [www.sweethollowpresby.org](http://www.sweethollowpresby.org)

Signup sheets will be out during coffee hour for the following:

- Selling pumpkins
- Staffing the bake sale table and the plant table
- Making baked goods
- Staffing the white elephant table (see Sukey Walters)
- Kitchen help
- The children's activities
- Setup and cleanup
- Available to fill-in where needed
- Ideas, events, decorating anyone might have or like to contribute to add the fair

If there is something you are already interested in helping with, please let me know as soon as possible - much appreciated!

Last but not least, we would like to thank everyone, (especially our Youth/Sunday School Children) who donated their time by helping to prepare food in advance, bring in food, and to serve and clean up at Project Hope's Sunday Supper in June. Our next Sunday Supper will be sometime in the late fall or early winter. Again, thank you to Maureen Sansone who organizes this each and every time.

Welcome back all, The Mission Team

### Book Discussion Reads Laura Bush's *Spoken from the Heart*



The Book Discussion's summer "beach read" is former First Lady Laura Bush's heartfelt memoir *Spoken from the Heart*. Born and raised in Midland, Texas, a brash and rugged boom-and-bust oil town, Laura Welch was an only child with a close relationship to her father and personal friendships that have sustained her to this day. She left West Texas in 1964, never imagining where her journey would lead her. She went to college at Southern Methodist University, trained to be a teacher and later a librarian. She met the man she would marry, George W. Bush, at age 30 and shocked everyone when three months later "the old maid of Midland married Midland's most eligible bachelor."

With rare intimacy and candor, Mrs. Bush shares stories of her early married life, her longing for children and her husband's decision to give up drinking. She tells of her husband's rise in American politics from governor to President, the withering and relentless media spotlight and her own transformation as she began to understand her potentiality within the role of First Lady. From Afghanistan to Africa, the Middle East to post-Katrina New Orleans, Mrs. Bush writes of her experiences in advocacy for women and children, for literacy and libraries. She also turns a deft eye to life in the White House, including the 175-year-old tradition of separate bedrooms for presidents and their wives, antics of White House guests and even a few members of Congress.

Both light and filling, this memoir is sure to provide hours of enjoyment. Won't you pick it up, read it and join us on Tuesday, September 14th at 7:30 p.m. to talk about it?

## MISSION TRIP NEWS (cont.)

beds, desks, bureaus and more for people transitioning from homeless into housing who need furniture and have nothing. Finally, there was an evening where they met two individuals who had struggled with homelessness. They had their eyes opened to some of the diversity in the faces of the homeless as they met Name and Name - the former is now in housing and the latter is still homeless and living in a shelter. All these activities were meaningful and important, providing a rich and complex variety of experiences for our young people.



Tired gardeners Alex D'Angelo and April Fallon take a breather in the sun.



April Fallon and Grace Segers pose in front of a buffalo in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

It wasn't all work, though.

There was also an evening monument tour and a daytime trip to two of the Smithsonian Museums. There was a late afternoon tour of the capitol building topped off by a visit to the House of Representatives. A long line caused a late arrival just as the House was going into a dinner recess before coming back to vote, which caused the group to hold its own debate about staying or going, in true democratic Presbyterian fashion. (It was an actual split decision, so the leaders allowed  $\frac{1}{2}$  to go back to the Pilgrimage, a Presbyterian church that houses and provides the programming for groups such as ours while the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  stayed and watched the first two votes of the evening.)

But wait! There's more... The group not only worked and played, but they also prepared their own meals, cared for their living space, met and interacted with other groups who'd come to D.C. for the same reason that they had and



April Fallon, Jessie Fressle, Alex D'Angelo and Grace Segers hanging together during their night "out on the town."

worshipped at the Pilgrimage on Sunday morning. All in all, it was a great trip - and one that is sure to be remembered by all for a long time to come.



A moment of rest after working in the park in over 100 degree weather (around the circle clockwise starting at 12:00): Renee Watson, Joe Watson, Dorothy Landkammer, Brooke Harrison, Kobe Gyau, Grace Segers, April Fallon, Annalise Thode, Jessie Fressle, and Amanda Vione.

**TRACY PAUL MORA**

August 4, 1969 – August 13, 2010



A very moving celebration service was held at 4:00 p.m. on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in our Sweet Hollow Sanctuary for Tracy Mora, who died suddenly in Heth, Arkansas on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The service opened with a recording of Tracy singing “Morning Has Broken” from a summer worship service last July when he sang solo, played guitar and was accompanied on piano by Music Director Rachel Fogel.

Tracy was a huge part of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow where he sang in the choir, and often played the guitar during our Sunday morning services or our Saturday afternoon services of healing. Tracy was serving his second term as a Deacon, having joined the church on November 7, 2004. Tracy used his computer skills to record sermons on CD for distribution to those not able to be present. He video-recorded numerous Christmas Pageants, even putting one on YouTube and participated in our Palm Sunday services, often playing the role of Jesus. Tracy and Deborah Verma had moved to Arkansas last fall to provide support for Deborah’s mother.

During the remembrances at the celebration service our Music Director Rachel Fogel captured Tracy’s outgoing friendly essence by pointing out that Tracy would greet each one of us with a smile, outstretched hand or a hug and look into each individual’s eyes before asking, “What’s going on?” Tracy’s interest in each of us was so focused that Rachel said she hesitated in interrupting his conversations with others, but knew that when he was talking with her, she would feel that total attention he gave everyone with whom he interacted.

For Tracy’s service, returning members

swelled the choir membership to 12, singing special music to celebrate Tracy, including “The Lord’s Prayer,” and “You Raise Me Up.” Soloist Grace Segers sang “Heaven Awaits” and Pastor Rebecca and Rachel Fogel sang “There Is a Balm in Gilead.” The congregation provided the rest of the music, joining together to sing favorites like “Spirit,” “Here I Am, Lord,” and “Down by the Riverside.”

Shawn Verma’s remembrance of Tracy providing 15 years of fatherly care and guidance for Sara and himself, was the most poignant of all. He told stories from his growing up and ended with the thought that “Tracy may not have been perfect, but he was perfect for us.”

Our love and prayers go out to Deborah, Shawn and Sara.

**Footprints (continued from page 4)**

economic status or skin color or education or any of the other things that divide rather than unite us. I know that we are not perfect people, that sometimes we disagree or even dislike each other. Proverbs 17:9 reads “One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend.” I am proud to be part of a group of people who work to forgive and to care rather than to harbor grudges and alienate others.

As we enter this new fall season, I find myself wondering not where I might go next, but instead what we’re going to accomplish next together. I find myself excited by the possibilities that we as a community share. I find myself looking forward to watching little Ben Greller and Evan Pereira (and hopefully Silas Miller and Makayla Bjornstad) grow. I find myself grateful for the opportunity to be there with you in times of loss and in times of celebration.

Proverbs 17:17 further says, “A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.” I truly believe that we at Sweet Hollow are like “kinsfolk” – family who care for and pray for and love each other. Who would ever want to move away from that!?

- Rev. Rebecca Segers

## **SWEET HOLLOW NEWS**

by Bill Walter

### **EARLY SWEET HOLLOW HISTORY**

Responding to a request from Ben Alexander, who is writing a book on Armenian-Americans and seeking information on Charles A. Vertanes, I found the following wonderful story about the re-activation of our Sweet Hollow Church following the Second World War.

As word of the reopening of the little church spread through Melville numerous people requested that a Sunday school be started. So, on September 30, 1945 the first classes were held with 19 pupils and three teachers. There was a great need for a minister to be present at the Sunday School to help with the spiritual leadership. The church could not afford a full-time minister and even with the help of Presbytery it could not find a part time one. Then in storybook fashion one found them.

One day in 1946, the Rev. Charles A. Vertanes, an ordained Presbyterian minister living in Farmingdale and working in an Armenian mission house in New York happened to drive past the Church. He was interested in the charming little church and stopped at a neighboring house to inquire. When he heard of the problem the church had, he volunteered to conduct Sunday services and do as much pastoral work as possible compatible with his week day job. Under Mr. Vertanes leadership the church grew and was incorporated with the Nassau-Brooklyn Presbytery on October 3, 1948. The Sweet Hollow Church had been so successful in gaining members that the Sunday School was bursting at the seams. Over 125 children met in the various corners of the Sanctuary each Sunday. Thus in the year 1950 several plans for expansion were put forth; however, after careful consideration, the congregation felt that the financial burden of such a large undertaking was too much at this time. The time required for Sweet Hollow affairs became more that Rev. Vertanes could provide because of the pressure of his weekday work and he resigned his position as Acting Pastor in 1950. For the next six years pulpit supply ministers from Old First, Central and Greenlawn were used and moderated the session until Rev. Angelo Crescenzo was installed as our Pastor in 1956.

### **CHURCH BRUNCH SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> – LONG ISLAND'S COASTLINE**

Melville sits in the center of the fattest part of Long Island. So many of us do not spend much time on our island's extensive coastline. Other Long Islanders are much more involved in our beaches, in boating, in fishing or in enjoying the beauty of the interaction of the ocean with the sand, rocks, cliffs or mashes of our shores & others with our birds and wildlife. Come join us on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> for our first Church Brunch this fall. Thanks to Allan Rogers we will be viewing a 55-minute DVD celebrating the inspiring natural beauty and mystery of Long Island's infinite shoreline.

The Brunch starts at 10:00 and will run 'til 12:30 p.m. Come join us whenever your schedule permits. We'll have freshly brewed coffee or tea and some scrumptious food for a mid-morning snack or brunch. Please note— the Church Brunch is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month – September 14<sup>th</sup> this month and then again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in October, October 14<sup>th</sup> when Bill & Sukey will take us along on their trip to Turkey.

# September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>5</b> 10 am Worship / Rev. Tom Castlen preaching Carol Mason and Jill Conroy's Birthdays	<b>6</b> Church office closed for Labor Day Lori & Wayne Galen's Anniversary	<b>7</b> Pastor Rebecca returns from vacation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Jean Bures's Birthday Sarah and Rusef Greller's Anniversary	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Caroline Martin's Birthday
<b>12</b> 10 am Worship / Sunday School begins Rob Conroy's Birthday	<b>13</b> Brittany Chessler's Birthday 7:30 pm Session Meeting	<b>14</b> 10 am - 12:30 pm Church Branch Fran Kerr's Birthday 7:30 pm Book Discussion / "Spoken from the Heart"	<b>15</b> Collin Roe's Birthday	<b>16</b> Doug Judd's Birthday 1-2:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>17</b> George Bures's Birthday	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10 am Worship / Welcome Home Sunday! 11:15 am BBQ & Games Kristin Conroy's Birthday	<b>20</b> Ayanna Williams and Dylan Landkammer's Birthdays	<b>21</b> Barbara Moder's Birthday	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Bell Ringer submission deadline	<b>24</b> Sukey & Bill Walter's Anniversary	<b>25</b> 9:30 am Presbytery Day @ the Setauket Presbyterian Church Bob Earthy's Birthday
<b>26</b> 10 am Worship 11:15 am Christian Ed Meeting 11:15 am Child Safety & Protection Policy Training 5:30 - 7:30 pm Youth Group	<b>27</b> Maurice Perkin's Birthday	<b>28</b> Joyce & Ed Makela's Anniversary	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

**2010**

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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*We're on the Web!*

*[www.sweethollowpresby.org](http://www.sweethollowpresby.org)*



The whole Mission Trip 2010 crew in front of the van (left to right): Pete Cianciotta, April Fallon, Joe Watson, Dorothy Landkammer, Annalise Thode, Grace Segers, Alex D'Angelo, Jessie Fressle, Brooke Harrison, Amanda Vione, Renee Watson, Kobe Gyau, Jeremiah Lee and Clark Boden.