
The Highlands

The Church in the Highlands, White Plains, NY (914)949-2023 • April 2009 •

Volume 18 Number 4

APRIL EVENTS AT THE CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

FAMILY WORSHIP

**Saturday, April 4th, 5:30 PM
followed by a Pizza Party!**

**Bring your friends! Everyone
Welcome!**

Join us at The Church in The Highlands
for our family worship service.

This unique worship service is created for
children and their families with lots of
movement, kid songs, bible stories, friends
and faith!

FRIDAY NIGHT at the MOVIES:

April 17th @ 7:30

The Fisher King

This romantic parable is a visually stunning
work from a master filmmaker, delving deep
into the nature of love and loss, of guilt and
redemption, of character and tragedy. Join us
for the movie followed by a **theological
conversation and dessert.**

COMMUNITY GARDEN DEDICATION

Join us on Sunday, April 19th,
immediately following worship for
the dedication of our community
garden!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday
10 AM worship service.

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday
8 PM traditional Tenebrae service.

Friday, April 10: Good Friday
9 AM to 12 PM the sanctuary will be
open for personal reflection and prayer;
12PM – 3 PM ecumenical service of the
Seven Last Words at St. Bartholomew's

Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday
10 AM worship

Metro Spring Meeting

The Church in the Highlands is hosting the
New York Conference's Metropolitan
Association of the United Church of Christ's
spring meeting on Saturday, April 25.
Registration begins at 8 AM. There will be
many opportunities to volunteer: choir
members; folks to help serve breakfast and
lunch; and someone to pick up participants at
the train station. If you can help, call the
church office. Everyone is invited to attend.

PUB THEOLOGY

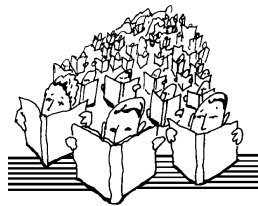
On the first Wednesday of every month, we seek an intelligent and intelligible way of talking about the transcendent, over a pint of beer. All friends of God's creation are welcome to participate in the conversation.

Wednesday, April 1, 7 PM
At Emma's Ale House
68 Gedney Way, White Plains, NY

Go to Meetup.com to sign up for Pub Theology or call Melanie for more information.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Wheelock Room. The class is taught by Rev. Miller. All who are in the Bible Study Group encourage others to join us. We wish to ask everyone to take advantage of the excellent presentation that Melanie Miller gives. Be assured it is not necessary to be a Biblical Scholar to join the group. All seekers of knowledge and understanding of our faith will profit by attending the group.



FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

If you would like to order flowers to beautify the sanctuary for a particular Sunday, call Ginny Hasluck at (914) 949-4184.

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS



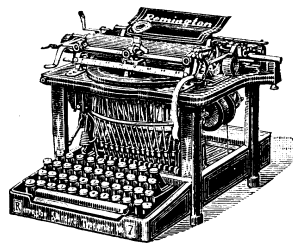
Every Sunday and Thursday evening you may see Views From the Pews at 7:00 p.m. on cable channel 76 and on FIOS channel 45.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10 A.M.

April 5: Don't Miss the Parade
April 12: Paradise Regained
April 19: Seeds of Hope
April 26: On the Road

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE HIGHLANDS

Send or e-mail (info@churchinhighlands.org) your article to the church office marked "For Highlands." Be sure to include your **name** and **phone number**. Any articles submitted after the 15th of the month will appear in the next issue of the Highlands.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

We need you to play an important role in our worship services - to join the lay readers team contact Bob Gravely; to join the ushers team contact Rob Essick; to be a Communion server contact Mimi Nacario.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Easter Epic

Misfortunes leave wounds which bleed drop by drop even in sleep; thus little by little they train man by force and dispose him to wisdom in spite of himself. Man must learn to think of himself as a limited and dependent being; and only suffering teaches him this.

Simone Weil

For I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content.

Philippians 4:11

When I was a kid, my family went to Dr. Spitler, D.D.S. I had serious teeth issues and was a frequent guest at his dental office. When my permanent teeth started coming in, my baby teeth didn't come out! I had two rows of bottom teeth: baby in front and permanent in back. In addition, my permanent teeth were very large and I didn't have room in my mouth for all my teeth. Dr. Spitler seemed to think that getting rid of teeth was the solution. I had fourteen teeth pulled: ten baby teeth and four permanent molars. I remember the agony of pre-dentist visit nights, saying my prayers for courage and mercy. I remember Dr. Spitler's foot on the edge of the chair between my knees, anchored for pulling leverage. I remember the sound of roots separating from jaw. I remember the plastic margarine tub with four huge teeth, my own, that I took to show-and-tell.

I am not a fan of dental work! You can imagine my mother's surprise when I took a job during my college years in a dental office. I processed billing and insurance papers. I sat in the office and listened to all the terrifying sounds: drills suction, pleading. Jan, one assistant, talked about the dentist for whom we worked. She complained that he did not practice preventative dentistry. Instead he was a huge patch work fan. She told story after story, including the Easter Epic!

According to Jan, a patient came into the office during Holy Week. He was scheduled to

receive a filling. As the drilling progressed the man was obviously uncomfortable. He finally raised his hand, signaling Dr. K. to stop. The patient begged, "Please, I need more novocaine. This really hurts." Dr. K. replied, "Two thousand years ago our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered much more pain on the cross" and continued drilling!

I don't know if this patient needed a lesson in suffering or not! My guess is he didn't. Who among us would volunteer for unnecessary suffering? Not I! Elisabeth Kübler-Ross says, "There is not much sense in suffering, since drugs can be given for pain, itching, and other discomforts. The belief has long died that suffering here on earth will be rewarded in heaven." Why suffer when you don't have to! And yet, we do suffer. We suffer loss, we suffer pain, we suffer injustice.

I am appalled at the unnecessary suffering of the man in the dentist chair. Am I appalled at the unnecessary suffering of the population that has no access to health care? I am appalled at Dr. K's religious ignorance. Am I appalled at the religious ignorance and intolerance that kills uncountable numbers? I am appalled that no one stopped Dr. K's infliction of pain. Am I appalled when silence allows domestic violence to kill?

Are you appalled that countless people around the world are suffering? Neglect, intolerance, poverty, hunger, and violence are realities for eighty percent of the world's population. Lent and Easter cause us to come face to face with suffering. The journey to the cross is Christ's story. The journey to the cross is, at the same time, so much more. It is humanity's story: our story of betrayal, desertion, ignorance and violence. The story doesn't stop at the cross though. It continues to the tomb and the resurrection: the end of suffering! May we use our voices, our hands, and our hearts to stop unnecessary suffering and participate in the resurrection of joy and peace!

Blessings,

Melanie

NEWS FROM THE OFFICIAL BOARD

The Church in the Highlands has a fundraising line item in 2009's budget that announces a new and ambitious approach to fundraising! In order to meet our \$10,000 goal the Official Board has formed a fundraising committee. Each board was asked to appoint a fundraising liaison to provide ideas and input. While the new fundraising committee will sift through ideas and proposals and set dates, we need the entire congregation to help! We're depending on you to help us meet our ambitious goal for 2009!

CHOIR NEWS

A note of thanks and appreciation to all who are contributing their talents and voices to the new volunteer choir. Your help is greatly appreciated. All are welcome to participate.

If you haven't yet become involved with the choir, we invite you to do so. We meet at 8.30 a.m. on Sundays for rehearsal just prior to the service.

Bob Chase

SUNDAY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

You may have your blood pressure taken during coffee hour in the Seashore Room on the Sundays listed below. Lynn Casinelli, Mimi & Tom Nacario and Leila Ngoho are RN's who offer us this service.

April 5, 2009

May 3, 2009

June 14, 2009

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Nursery school has been buzzing with all our special events – a daffodil drive for the American Cancer Society, class pictures and many days of preparation for the work that goes into a successful family potluck dinner. Baskets for our auction were lovingly wrapped, after being filled with contributions from our families.

The arrival of spring has excited us all. Our new playhouse is ready for use and the new swings should be up by the time of this reading. Next on the list is the scheduling of parent/teacher conferences.

The invitation is out – as always – to walk our halls, admire our art work, and peek in our classrooms.

Happy Spring,
Lynn Fargo

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

FOR APRIL'S CLASSROOM

B.I.G. Theme—Not the End of the Story
B.I.G. Idea—We believe that stories of Easter

Palm Sunday - Matthew 21:1-11

The Resurrection - Luke 24:1-12

Breakfast on the Beach John - 21:1-14

The Great Commission Matthew - 28:16-20

IDEAS FOR HOME

Start a "prayer book" at home in which you and your children or grandchildren write to each other. For younger children, use stickers or labels with prewritten messages: "You have a great smile" or "I'm proud of you" or "Thanks for all your help." For older family members, ask them to write or name some hopes for the family, share some prayers you remember, and name two or three people for whom to pray. Use the prayer book at least once a week to pray for your family.

NEW BOARDS

In an effort to more effectively address the needs of the congregation, we are listing the new Board chairs and members. If you have a question or concern, please contact the appropriate Board. If you are unsure of who to contact, please call the office for assistance.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For buildings, grounds and financial needs:

Leslie Nacario, chair	Mareda Graves
Everett Parker	Barbara Loucks
Linda Grossman	

BOARD OF DEACONS

For spirituality and worship needs:

Linda Davies, chair	Polly Wolff
Chuck Squires	Debbie Oleson
Robert Graveley	Wendy Busch
Mimi Nacario	Lisa Griffin
Rob Essick	

BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

For educational needs:

Lorraine Buonocunto, chair	
Adeline Vaughn	Ron Porta
Midge Graveley	John Busch

BOARD OF COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICE

For benevolences:

Dian Garnsey, chair	Marty Lent
Rosemary Decker	Barbara Hubbell
Laurie Flynn	

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

For annual pledge drive and stewardship:

Mike Myllek, chair	Ihor Szkolar
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Bob Grossman
Doug Johnson

Tom Nacario

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For annual ballot and filling board and committee vacancies:

Linda Davies, chair	Dian Garnsey
Everett Parker	

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS & ADDRESSES

Pastor — Melanie Miller

(914) 428-4215 (home)

(914) 671-5390 (cell)

mmiller@churchinhighlands.org

Moderator — Tony Casinelli

(914) 997-1506

Vice Moderator — Gary Vaughan

(914) 328-0687

Treasurer — Veda Szkolar

(914) 682-4728

Financial Secretary — Leslie Nacario

(914) 433-3923

Director of Music — Dr. Robert A. Chase

(914) 946-8126

Altar Guild — Virginia Hasluck

(914) 949-4184

Church Office

(914) 949-2023

Church Office Fax —

(914) 686-2816

Church e-mail — Info@churchinhighlands.org

Web Site — www.churchinhighlands.org

www.churchinhighlands.com

Early Childhood Center (Nursery School) —

Linnea Fargo

(914) 946-6132

Ecc@churchinhighlands.org