

The Highlands

The Church in the Highlands, White Plains, NY (914)949-2023 • February 2009 • Volume 18 Number 3

MARCH EVENTS AT THE CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

The Church in the Highlands is on FACEBOOK

If you or a family member is on Facebook, look us up! We'd love to add you to our group.

FAMILY WORSHIP

**Saturday, March 7th, 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:

**March 13th @ 7:30
Chocolat**

Vianne Rocher and her 6-year-old daughter open a chocolate shop across from a church, just as the town is preparing to observe Lent. The parish priest is horrified, especially since Vianne keeps her tempting shop open on Sundays. Join us for this delightful movie followed by a **theological conversation and dessert.**

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Please join us for Wednesday Noontime

Lenten Services:

March 4, 11, 18 and 25

After the service, everyone is invited to a soup and sandwich luncheon in the Wheelock Room. The cost is \$5.00.

Please RSVP so we know how many will be at the lunch.

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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. We seek authentic friendships, mutual encouragement, and collective joy.

All friends of God's creation are welcome to participate in the conversation.

Wednesday, March 4, 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: Service on April 5 at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

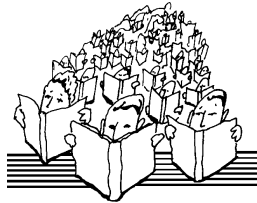
Maundy Thursday: April 9 at 8 p.m. we will have our traditional Maundy Thursday Service. Communion will be served during this moving and reflective service.

Good Friday: April 10 from 9:00—Noon the Sanctuary will be open for personal meditation.

Easter Sunday: Service on April 12 at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

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 participation by 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 a plant to beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, call Ginny Hasluck at (914) 949-4184, as soon as possible.

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.

March 1: Temptation Island
 March 8: Mountain Top Moment
 March 15: Turning Tables
 March 22: The Rest of the Story
 March 29: Walk in the Light



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

March 1: Follow Me—John 1:35-51 This week you'll learn about the men who chose to follow Jesus. On the Road you'll meet some very special dogs that help people in a very special way.

March 8: You Are the Messiah—Matthew 16:13-18 This week you'll learn who Jesus was. He was a carpenter, a teacher, and the Messiah. At The Station Emmy and Fiona learn an important lesson about friendship.

March 15: Wash My Feet—John 13:1-9, 14 Do your feet get dirty? Maybe if you wear sandals like they did in Bible times. Washing feet was a way that people cared for one another. This week you'll learn about Jesus washing the Disciples' feet. In The B.I.G. Picture you'll learn about foot-washing.

March 22: Pray With Me—Mark 14:32-42 Jesus wanted the Disciples to pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, but they kept falling asleep. Jesus wanted them to know that prayer is very important. At The Station Justin has been let down by some of his friends, but The Station gang comes through to help!

March 29: Peter's Denial—Mark 14:26-31, 66-72, John 21:15-17 This week you'll learn about Peter making a mistake. Jesus loved Peter even when Peter made a mistake by not being faithful. Spirits are high at The Station this week. Will everyone's friendship survive?

FUNDRAISER



How quickly time flies!!! Easter is just around the Corner and that means it is time for our annual Malley's Chocolates fundraiser!!!! We are again joining with Ridgeview and Chatterton Hill for this tasty event.

We hope that everyone will help us make this another successful fundraiser.

To help, you can:

- a. Place an order during Social Hour
- b. Take a catalog and share it with friends and family. All orders should be in no later than **March 15**
With checks made out to
THE CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS
- c. Register on-line and reach out to friends with an electronic message which has a link to our fundraiser website at Malley's. Call
Lynne and Tony Casinelli for instructions at 914.997.1506
- d. Visit the Church Website
www.churchinhighlands.org
and click on the Malley's link

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING MODERATOR

Friends, I was totally surprised and admittedly overwhelmed with the special coffee hour you had for me on Sunday, February 15th. Thank you all, for all the thought and hard work that went into the wonderful food that highlighted my Sunday Coffee Hour. A special thanks to Lorraine who headed it up and to all who prepared the food. I recognized so many signature dishes, as well as some very impressive new ones. You all know how much I love to go out to eat, one of my favorite pastimes, so thank you also for my gift of not only dinner but to the Dinner Theater in Elmsford for a night of theater also. What a memorable time the coffee hour was for me. Good food, good people, dinner and the theater plans and I even got to take home the flowers. One couldn't ask for anything else. You have discovered all my hidden loves.

Thanks is also a two way street, so for all the help, the support and encouragement you all gave to me through my three years as your moderator, I thank each and every one of you. As a congregation, day in and day out, you were the glue that kept us all together and kept us moving forward. It was the everyday work of coming on Sunday, being a committee member, reading at worship, serving communion that has made us the church we are today and made it so much easier for me.

Irene Sweeny

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Are You Listening?

Listen to God.

Listen to the sweet and bitter airs of your present
and your past for the sound of God.

-Frederick Buechner

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it
not been told you from the beginning? Have you
not understood from the foundations of the earth?
Isaiah 40:21

I overheard a conversation recently. It was
between a father and his young son, who was
maybe five years old. The father said in a
frustrated tone, although he wore a sympathetic
smile, "Son, are you listening?" The young boy
replied, "What did you say, Dad?" The father's
smile widened as he said, "Yes, precisely! Perhaps
we should get your ears checked. There seems to
be a blockage!"

These words have been ringing in my ears.
I heard the conversation loud and clear, and it
sounded familiar. Ah, yes! You remember this
conversation, don't you? Your father had it with
you. And you've had it with your children. "Are
you listening? This is important!"

Listening is the most important skill we
learn. Yet, it seems to be the hardest. Why is
that? We've all met people who don't listen. It's
like they're just waiting for you to stop talking, to
take a breath, so that they can talk. You know
they're not listening to you, they're too busy
planning their next sentence or more likely,
paragraph. It's as though they enjoy the sound of
their own voice.

Listening is not just about hearing the other
person, the other voice. It's bigger than just that.
It's about respect for the other person, the other
voice. It's about awareness and understanding. It's
about sharing in a meaningful exchange, living life
in community. Listening is huge.

So why don't we listen? Why do we have
blockages? Well, it's probably because of fear.
Some of us have lived our whole lives being
silenced. We fear that if we try one more time to
be heard, if we open our mouths, we'll be
overpowered. We stop speaking and we stop
listening to the oppressive, silencing voices. Some
of us don't listen for fear of what we may hear.
After all, who wants to be told what to do? Who
wants to be told that they're wrong? Who wants to
be corrected? Some of us don't listen for fear that
we may hear nothing at all. Our loved ones may
have stopped talking. God may be silent. The
goodness in the world may have been
overpowered.

We had some visitors in worship recently
who brought a message that was difficult to hear.
It was about the current conflict in Iraq. It's hard
to hear these emotion-packed messages, especially
in the midst of sacred space and time. But this is
precisely where we must listen, because God is still
speaking in this space and if we listen hard enough
perhaps we will hear words of comfort and
correction that rise above divisive rhetoric.

I believe that God does still speak. I believe
that goodness is abundant. I believe that loved
ones are waiting to be heard. Yes, it may be hard to
hear sometimes over the roar of the television and
traffic. We just need to be still, to stop the chatter
in our own minds and listen.

It's why we have the Bible. God got tired of
saying, "Are you listening? Do you need your ears
checked?" so he had the stories written down. If
we listen to those sacred texts, perhaps we'll learn
from the mistakes of others and avoid making
them ourselves. If we listen to the sacred stories of
our own lives perhaps in the midst of the boredom
and the pain, the joy and the adventure we'll find
grace.

Are you listening?

Blessings,
Melanie

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

How to have an Eco-Lent Brought to you by Tearfund.org's Carbon Fast 2009 for climate change

Climate Change can mean our neighbors go hungry because of drought or lose their homes because of floods. Faced with that reality, there are many things we can do, acting as part of the global church's response, to change the way our lives impact poor communities. Change your habits this year with with Tearfund. This Lent to reduce your carbon footprint and help protect poor people from climate change follow the weekly disciplines below.

First Week of Lent:

More than 150 billion liters of bottled water are sold worldwide every year. This contributes significantly to landfill and transport emissions. Say no to bottled water and drink tap water – buy a refillable washable bottle to use instead.

Second Week of Lent:

Landfill sites are a major source of methane emissions. Reuse and recycle your waste and compost your food waste to reduce the rubbish destined for landfill sites. Start here: www.recyclenow.com/home_composting If you don't have somewhere to compost then investigate alternatives with your local authority.

Third Week of Lent:

We receive nearly 4 billion items of direct mail per year, one third of it unread (Direct Marketing Association). Register your home under the Mailing Preference Service to stop wasteful junk mail.

<http://www.ecofuture.org/jnkmail.html>

Bonus: Request electronic bills and statements to save paper and postage

Fourth Week of Lent:

Buy food that's being grown or produced locally using local shops and farmers markets where possible.

Bonus: Grow some of your own food. You don't need an allotment or even a garden - grow herbs, fruit and vegetables in pots (window sill or garden). Or join others in your community to cultivate gardens together.

Fifth Week of Lent

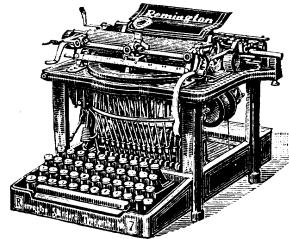
Source paper, tissue, toilet paper and wood that is recycled or has been accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council – this ensures it has come from responsibly managed sustainable forests or confirms that it is recycled.

Sixth Week of Lent:

Reduce the number of plastic bags you use. Get a fabric or reusable bag instead and take it with you when you shop.

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. Be a scripture reader or join an usher team. Call Bob Graveley for more information.

WHITE GIFT SERVICE THANK YOU



This years' White Gift Service which benefited St Mary's Children's Hospital was again very successful! Along with the many gifts our congregation donated \$792.

The Gifts were brought to the children on December 21 by "The Police Columbia Association of Westchester" and this year Melanie came along and we were also joined by Lynne Casinelli. Watching the children as they receive their gifts from Santa is definitely an uplifting experience. Thank you all for your generosity.

-Tony

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.

March 8, 2009

May 3, 2009

April 5, 2009

June 14, 2009

CHOIR NEWS

We would like to recognize and thank all who have volunteered to sing in a newly-formed choir. We are very grateful for their support. Thanks go to: Sarah and Gregg Baker, Ginny Hasluck, Marty Lent, Mike Myllek, Leslie Nacario, Tom Nacario, Chuck Squires, Irene Sweeny, Veda Szkolar, and our Pastor, Melanie Miller.

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 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