

# The Highlands

The Church in the Highlands, White Plains, NY (914)949-2023 • May 2009 • Volume 18 Number 5

## MAY EVENTS AT THE CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

### *FAMILY WORSHIP*

**Saturday, May 2nd, 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!

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#### **Introducing**

### **The Disciples of Jobu!**

Our church softball team, in cooperation with  
St. Bart's! Join them at their first game of the  
season: Monday, May 4, 6:00 PM at Gillie  
Field! Please note the entire "Disciples of  
Jobu" softball schedule on page 2.

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

Wednesday, May 6, 7 PM  
At Lazy Boy Saloon  
154 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY

### **FRIDAY NIGHT at the MOVIES:**

**May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30**

#### **Dead Man Walking**

This fascinating and powerful drama explores  
the relationship between a condemned young  
convict and the nun who counsels him in the  
days leading up to his execution. Based on  
the real-life experiences of **Sister Helen  
Prejean**, the film shows the horrors of state-  
sanctioned executions while also dealing  
sympathetically with the grief felt by the  
families of the two murder victims. Join us  
for the movie followed by a **theological  
conversation and dessert.**

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#### **A Journey of the Heart:**

**Sister Helen Prejean**  
Author of *Dead Man Walking*

**May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 2 PM**

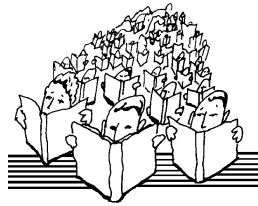
Join the Sisters of Divine Compassion at  
52 N. Broadway, White Plains, for  
"A Journey of the Heart" presented by  
Helen Prejean, CSJ, and author of  
"Dead Man Walking." Second Annual  
Exploration of Contemporary Contexts  
for Compassion. Donation \$25.  
Light refreshments and lunch.

## MEMORIAL SUNDAY: MAY 24TH

If you would like to remember a loved one or someone who has died, please send the person's name to the church office along with a donation to the Memorial Fund. Send it to the attention of Annette, no later than Tuesday, May 19.

## 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.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10 A.M.

May 3: The Good Shepherd  
 May 10: The Vinegrower  
 May 17: Called to Love  
 May 24: In, Not of, this World  
 May 31: Windblown

## CHOIR NEWS

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

## FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

If you would like to order flowers to beautify the sanctuary for a particular Sunday, call our new Altar Guild chair, Debbie Oleson at (914) 328-8453.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The congregation would like to thank Ginny Hasluck for almost 10 years of service as Altar Guild chair. Ginny has been faithful in executing her duties through almost a decade of ordering Easter and Christmas flowers, weekly altar flowers, and delivering flowers to shut-ins. Your efforts will be missed.

## 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.

## 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.

## DISCIPLES OF JOB: SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Monday, 5/4, 6 PM Gillie Field # 2 Gedney Way  
 Monday, 5/11, 6 PM Gillie Field # 2  
 Wednesday, 5/20, 8:30 PM Gillie Field # 2  
 Wednesday, 6/3, 8:30 PM Gillie Field # 2  
 Monday, 6/8, 5:45 PM, Delfino Field #1, Lake St.  
 Monday, 6/15, 6 PM Gillie Field # 2  
 Monday, 6/22, 5:45 PM Delfino Field #2,  
 Wednesday, 7/1, 8:30 PM Gillie Field #2  
 Monday, 7/6, 5:45 PM Delfino Field #2,  
 Monday, 7/13 5:45 PM, Delfino Field #2,  
 Monday, 7/20, 6 PM Gillie Field #2  
 Monday, 7/27, 5:45 PM, Delfino Field #2,  
 Wednesday, 8/2, 6 PM Gillie Field #2  
 Wednesday, 8/12, 6 PM Gillie Field #2

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Green Acres

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.

- Meister Eckhart

**“Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”**

-Jeremiah 17:7-8

This spring was tough for me. I keep thinking the sun will emerge from its long slumber and warm me back to life. Too few spring days with sunshine, too few spring days that offer backyard retreats leave me wanting. My emotions end up mimicking the weather. Constantly raining, cloudy, gloomy, foggy. I long for summer; for the return of green trees and grass. I was beginning to doubt that it would ever come. When I get melancholy, my mind drifts back to my childhood and to the place that helped form me.

I grew up surrounded by green. Miles of corn and bean fields were interrupted only by other shades of green, shelterbelts of cotton wood and cedar trees. The secret to this green was water. Far beneath the sand hills and plains of Nebraska is the largest underground water supply in the world, the Ogallala Aquifer. The aquifer is 200 by 100 miles and is 80 feet deep. This supply is naturally replenished every time the rain falls. As rain water filters through the layers of sand and rock it is purified. Most Nebraska farmers, including my dad, use this water to irrigate their fields. The most common form of irrigation is the center pivot. A center pivot usually covers a squared quarter mile, 160 acres. In the middle of that area is a large motor that powers a well pump and 12 towers. These towers are eight feet high. Each tower is shaped like a triangle. At the base of the triangle are two wheels, one on each corner. Close to the top of the triangle run two pipes, that stretch the length of all twelve towers. Attached to the pipes are countless

nozzles, very similar to garden sprinklers that rotate as they spray. At the end of the towers is a powerful single nozzle that sprays up to one hundred and eight feet, appropriately called the end gun. As the center pivot waters the field, it travels in a circle at various speeds regulated by the farmer. One circle every thirteen hours is the fastest speed, leaving one-quarter inch of water and the slowest speed is one circle every forty-nine hours leaving one inch of water. One well pumps one thousand and forty gallons of water every minute: one million, four hundred and forty gallons a day. It should be no surprise to learn that one acre of land can produce two hundred bushels of corn. One of these quarter mile sections can produce thirty-two thousand bushels. If while flying over the mid-west you've ever wondered about the lush green circles beneath you, now you know the miracle of center pivots.

Wells of living water, creating green seas that feed the world. I, too, was fed by these green seas, not just by the corn and beans and wheat, but by asparagus growing wild on the floor of the shelterbelts. My sense of well-being was fed by the smell of freshly cut green alfalfa with purple blossoms. My sense of adventure was fed by driving the John Deere, dad's green tractor.

I was fed in so many remarkable ways by the water of the Ogallala Aquifer, by the fields of green it produced. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) developed what she calls a theology of green. It's her own environmental theology. She was a woman far ahead of her time. I had a difficult time understanding her theology of green when I read it in seminary years ago, academically anyway. But I understand it emotionally. My eyes read the words and my mind struggles to understand what she's saying, but it's my heart that understands. My heart transports me to my childhood where I was fed by miles and miles of green.

Maybe that's why I feel so at home here. I love the greening that's happening here at the Church in the Highlands. We are embracing new ideas and new ways of being fed; we are growing green and lush; thriving and reawakening to our call to feed each other and the world.

Peace, Melanie

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

### FOR MAY'S CLASSROOM

**B.I.G. Idea:** We believe that stories of the Spirit promise us that the Holy Spirit is present in our lives.

**B.I.G. Theme:** Stories of the Spirit

**Bible Verse:** *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* Galatians 5:22-23

#### May 3, 2009: Ezekiel-Dry Bones—Ezekiel 37:1-14

This week you'll learn about Ezekiel in a valley of dry bones. In The B.I.G. Picture you'll be able to better understand the Holy Spirit.

#### May 10, 2009: Fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace)—Galatians 5:22-23

This week you'll begin to learn about the Fruits of the Spirit. You'll start with Love, Joy, and Peace. Qualities like these are how others see God's Spirit in us. At The Station Ana helps the kids learn that God wants us to fill the world with love, peace, and joy...not hurt.

#### May 17, 2009: Fruit of the Spirit (Patience, Kindness, Generosity)—Galatians 5:22-23

You'll continue learning about Fruits of the Spirit this week. You'll move on to Patience, Kindness, and Generosity. How can you show others these fruits? In On the Road you'll meet a lady who plays her harp for some very special people.

#### May 24, 2009: Fruit of the Spirit (Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control)—Galatians 5:22-23

You'll learn about Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control this week. At The Station Justin makes a bad choice, but through it he learns about self-control.

#### May 31, 2009: Pentecost—Acts 2:1-21, 37-47

This week is the birthday of the church. You'll learn about Pentecost today. It's On the Road again, and this time you'll meet Ellie. Ellie did something very special to help children in Africa.

#### SUNDAY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

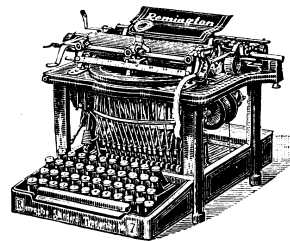
You may have your blood pressure taken during coffee hour in the Seashore Room on the Sundays listed below. Lynne Casinelli, Mimi & Tom Nacario and Leila Ngoho are RN's who offer us this service.

May 3, 2009

June 14, 2009

#### SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE HIGHLANDS

Send or e-mail ([info@churchinhighlands.org](mailto: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.

#### CHURCH LEAGUE COOKBOOK

The Church League needs your recipes for their community garden companion cookbook. They are accepting "green" all natural, seasonal and organic recipes.

#### FALL TAG SALE

Please mark your calendars for the Church in the Highlands fall tag sale on Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13. Remember! – your trash is someone else's treasure! While cleaning out your homes drop off the items you've outgrown.

Thanks!

## BOARDS

In an effort to more effectively address the needs of the congregation, we are listing the 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:

Barbara Loucks, chair

Mareda Graves	Linda Grossman
Leslie Nacario	Everett Parker

### 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](mailto:mmiller@churchinhighlands.org)

Moderator — Tony Casinelli

(914) 997-1506

Vice Moderator — Gary Vaughan

(914) 328-0687

Treasurer — Veda Szkolar

(914) 682-4728

Director of Music — Dr. Robert A. Chase

(914) 946-8126

Altar Guild — Debbie Oleson

(914) 328-8453

Church Office

(914) 949-2023

Church Office Fax —

(914) 686-2816

Church e-mail — [Info@churchinhighlands.org](mailto:Info@churchinhighlands.org)

Web Site — [www.churchinhighlands.org](http://www.churchinhighlands.org)

[www.churchinhighlands.com](http://www.churchinhighlands.com)

Early Childhood Center (Nursery School) —

Linnea Fargo

(914) 946-6132

[Ecc@churchinhighlands.org](mailto:Ecc@churchinhighlands.org)