

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for bible study at 10.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. each Tuesday in the Wheelock Room. We will engage in a "Bible Workbench" discussion based on the Lectionary texts.

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.

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 ALTAR GUILD

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

STAFF MEETING

If you have concerns and/or calendar items that must come to the staff's attention, please contact the office to add them to the agenda.

INVITATION FROM THE CHOIR

Choir will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00. All are welcome to join us.

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. They are also having a "name the cookbook" contest. See Lorraine for details.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

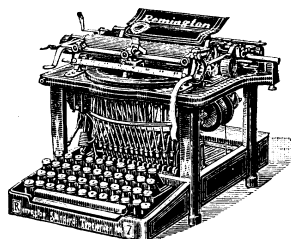
Chuck and Evelyn Squires received the Distinguished Service Award given by the Kiwanis Club of White Plains at a dinner on October 23, 2009. The following paragraph appeared on the invitation to the event:

Charles "Chuck" and Evelyn Squires are truly remarkable people each individually as well as together as a team. Their quiet devotion to charitable matters and seemingly boundless energy for volunteering for countless organizations in the White Plains area are an inspiration to all who know them. Just a partial list of the organizations and projects includes United Way, The Old Guard, Meals on Wheels, White Plains Ecumenical Food Pantry, St. Mary's in the Field School and, of course, White Plains Kiwanis. We are very excited to honor them with the Kiwanis Distinguished Service Award. As part of their commitment, partial proceeds/funds raised from the dinner will go to the Blythedale Children's Hospital.

We extend congratulations to Chuck and Evelyn.

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.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Happy Campers

One of the secrets of life is to make stepping-stones out of stumbling blocks.

- Jack Penn

Awhile back I got an invitation in the mail: "The Get Along Gang **and Others** Riverside Reunion." Riverside Bible Conference is a "Bible-based" camp near Amherst, Wisconsin. I started attending Riverside Bible Conference when I was thirteen. My uncle Ralph was co-director and since I spent summers with him and Aunt Connie, helping with their various mission projects, I attended camp, too.

Like so much of life, my memories of Riverside are mixed. I loved the friends I made and many of the activities. I loved the atmosphere; the thickly wooded area, the pine smell, the river running through the grounds, the sound of water rolling over the rocky riverbed. Every year one of the highlights was camper/counselor "Hide and Seek." The counselors would hide and the campers would find them. Every year Eddie's dad (I can picture him: short, well built, funny nose, but I can't remember his name) went unfound. He would dress up in his Army Reserve camouflage fatigues and bury himself in leaves or suspend himself under the foot bridge. Every year he was the highly sought after prize. He became a "Hide and Seek" legend.

There were the usual camp activities. We had to clean our dorms after breakfast, and then during morning chapel they would be inspected. Mrs. Nelson, Riverside's own drill sergeant, would report back during lunch. A speck of dirt, a pine needle, a ripple in a sleeping bag, a spot on the bathroom mirror would all be grounds for docked points. She'd describe your sleeping bag and shoes if they weren't perfect, letting everyone know you were the cause of a less than perfect dorm score. Morning calisthenics, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, to the U.S. flag, the Christian flag and the Bible, afternoon sports, followed by swim time, quiet time: all typical, normal, healthy camp activities. But there was twist at Riverside Bible Camp.

Certain things weren't so normal. Being a "Christian" camp, a fundamentalist Christian camp, there were certain rules. Rules that would help ensure the moral development of campers. We were not allowed to wear shorts. Modesty, you know, is a virtue. We suffered

through ninety-eight degree, eighty percent humidity days wearing jeans and t-shirts, women couldn't wear tank tops either.

I began as a camper and eventually became a counselor. Even then I was a feminist and an activist. I remember one particular time, instead of being a good counselor who enforced the rules, I challenged the rules and Mrs. Nelson. Girls and women were suppose to wear dresses to evening chapel services. Boys and men were suppose to wear slacks. The boys, however, would never change their clothes after afternoon sports. They'd spend the rest of the day sweaty and smelly, but carefree. No one ever said a word. Except me. I'd finally had enough. If we were suppose to follow the rules, then they'd better follow them too. If we were suppose present ourselves in a respectable manner before God, then they'd better too. So that evening I, too, went to chapel service sweaty and smelly and carefree. Well, not so carefree. Mrs. Nelson had a word or two with me. But, she was surprisingly sympathetic. From that moment on the boys were no longer as carefree. Mrs. Nelson stood in the back of the chapel and all untidy worshipers were sent packing. The girls loved me and the new arrangement. The boys, not so much!

I wonder about Mrs. Nelson. I wonder where she is today. If she's happy with her life. If she remembers me fondly or as a nuisance. I wonder if her sympathy toward me was a result of a lifetime of men using religion as a justification for oppression. Oh, I know, wearing pants in the summer and dresses to chapel isn't the end of the world. And I even admit that some of my Riverside camp experiences helped develop my theology and morality (perhaps not exactly how they had hoped)!

Mrs. Nelson won't be at the reunion and neither will I. You see we're the "and others" mentioned in the title of the reunion. Women "were never allowed to be official members" of "the Get Along Gang." I learned that the list of "others" is growing. Riverside recently hosted a white supremacist group called "Christian Identity." Imagine their list of "others." I've discovered that I like the company of "others." So did Jesus.

Perhaps I'll have my own reunion. The first person I'll invite is Mrs. Nelson.

Blessings,
Melanie

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The classrooms are buzzing with Fall activity. The children are working on pumpkins, leaves, and acorns and getting ready for their upcoming Halloween parties! We had a very successful Cheesecake Fundraiser. Thank You to all of you who bought cheesecake from Debra Ann Rosenberg, who was our biggest seller! For Fire Safety week, we had a visit from a NYC firefighter who spoke to the children about fire prevention and safety! This coincided with our monthly fire drills so everyone is ready in case of emergency! We have a new Cooking class this year on Thursday afternoons. The children will be making great treats with Mrs. Zawiski!

-Amy O'Donnell, Director

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

How to Go Green: Thanksgiving Day

From Rachel Sarnoff at PLANET GREEN

Here are a few easy ways to have a "green" Thanksgiving! It's not as hard as you might think: Try buying organic, or better yet, find living succulent wreaths for both. Is your centerpiece a turkey? Find a heritage breed, or consider a vegetarian alternative. Find out how to shop your local farmers' markets for your feast, and find recycled elements for your holiday decor.

Shop for your staples and non-perishable items

Thanksgiving is a wonderful opportunity to hit up your local farmers' market for organic, locally-sourced produce. Since these traditional recipes typically rely on food that's in season, you can pretty much find everything you need in the way of root vegetables (carrots, potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams) as well as specialty items like honey.

Clean house

Use non-toxic cleaners to make your house sparkle without chemicals. Run out of sink or tub scrub? Mix up some baking soda and water. Wondering how to get your windows squeaky clean? Try vinegar and newspaper. These household staples really work, and you won't run the risk of inciting a synthetic-fragrance induced allergy attack in your guests.

Pre-fab as much prep as you can

If you're making stuffing, pre-mix it. If you're mashing potatoes, skin and quarter them (if you leave them in a tub of cool water, they'll be fine overnight). The turkey can be brined or prepped with olive oil, salt and pepper and left in the refrigerator until the next morning. Pies can be baked and set on a shelf. The more you get done the day before, the less you'll have to worry about on the big day.

Give thanks

Many families say a traditional prayer led by the head of the table before eating. Some go around the table, with each member saying what he or she is giving thanks for this year.

Dispose of the leftovers

Scrape the plates and suds up. Even if you don't compost, you can separate the green scraps from the rest and toss them in your leaf bin. Remember to recycle your wine bottles, plastic bottles and aluminum cans, too.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS & ADDRESSES

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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

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Early Childhood Center (Nursery School) —

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