

The Highlands

The Church in the Highlands, White Plains, NY (914)949-2023 •February 2009• Volume 18 Number 2

FEBRUARY 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, February 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: Liberation Theology Series

**February 13th @ 7:30
Motorcycle Diaries**

The Motorcycle Diaries follows two young men, Ernesto "Che" Guevara and his friend, Alberto, on an 8-month, 8,000 mile motorcycle journey through South America and witnesses the birth of a revolutionary heart.

Join us for the movie followed by a **theological conversation and dessert.**

Ash Wednesday Service

February 25th at 7 a.m.

A hot breakfast will follow with time for fellowship and for everyone to be off to work or at home by 8:30 a.m.

PUB THEOLOGY

Melanie has been enjoying ecumenical community organizing with Gawain de Leeuw, the rector of St.

Bartholomew's Episcopal Church! The most imaginative project has been 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, February 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.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

After 25 year of outstanding service to our church and its children as Director of Children's Ministry, Laurie Flynn has retired. Since Laurie is irreplaceable we won't even try! The RE Board has decided to hire an interim Sunday School Teacher. So we enthusiastically welcome David Glickstein! Here's a little about David in his own words:

For me it all started in 1985 in the quaint, upstate New York town of Rhinebeck. I lived in that part of New York until I was six, then my father got a job which led us to Nashville. Shortly after my tenth birthday, my family moved to Moscow, Russia to do missionary work. We lived there for three years then moved to Düsseldorf, Germany for a year and a half. After our stint in Germany, my family trekked to the frigid land of Helsinki, Finland where we stayed until I graduated high school in 2002.

Bouncing around Europe was an amazing upbringing but somewhat tumultuous as you probably can imagine. Since being back in the US my life has been pretty normal. I have had the consistency of being in one city. I graduated from the college where I started. I have the same friends. I have the same girlfriend. I have only left the country once in the last six years. And I am fine with that.

During my travels, I visited over twenty countries. I learned how to speak German fluently, Russian intermediately and I understand Finnish. I also found a love for the performing arts--namely music and theater. Currently, I am a gigging musician and dabble in acting. To support my artistic endeavors, I have tutored German and some Russian. Although my main source of income comes from caring for a special needs teenager who is wheelchair stricken. My two years and counting with him have been extremely rewarding on many levels. That is one reason why I am really excited and honored to be at your church teaching your children. I hope that my time at The Church in the Highlands will be a blessing to you, your children and your community. Feel free to

approach me after church with any questions or concerns, or if you just want to stop by and say "hallo", "preevyet", or "moi" (German, Russian, and Finnish greetings).

Thank you,
David

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10 A.M.

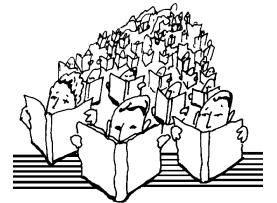
The Gospel of Mark's Story:

Feb 1 – Room for Something New
Feb 8 – Proclaiming the Message
Feb 15 – Compassionate Response
Feb 22 – Tensions Rise



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.



TAIZE' EVENING PRAYER

You are invited to join the Sisters of Divine Compassion for Taize' evening prayer on Friday evenings at 5.30 p.m. at the Chapel of the Divine Compassion 52 N. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603.

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 46.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Starting Over

One of the most valuable things we can do to
 heal one another
 is listen to each other's stories.
 - *Rebecca Falls*

When my grandmother died five years ago we gathered around her bed, the nine days before she died. Those days delivered the most amazing stories about the goodness of her life. We shared our memories and our hopes. We laughed and we cried.

My grandfather told stories I had never heard before. He told me that he'd been in love with grandma since he was eleven and she was seven. For seventy-five years he'd been in love with her. He told me he fell in love the first day he saw her. She had just gotten her tonsils out and her family came to get ice from the Miller family farm to make ice cream for her. Grandpa said she was the most beautiful thing he had ever laid eyes on. He said he followed her around like a puppy dog and from that day forward whenever he was in town he'd run up and down the street looking for their car, to see if she was in town too, to see if maybe he could talk to her.

Which was huge because grandpa stuttered as a child. He was shamefully shy because of it. He wouldn't speak in school or in church. Being one of nine boys, his silence at home was most likely welcomed. And so my grandfather became a man of few words. But in spite of this impairment he pursued Lena Bennett, the woman he would marry and spend sixty-five years with.

Grandpa said that in those 65 years they never fought. Oh, they disagreed, he readily admitted, but he said they never raised their voices at each other. And he admitted that she did things that drove him nuts, like the way she

scraped the side of a bowl when she served up dinner. He had his pet peeves, but he said he never told her because, "some things just don't matter."

Their lives weren't perfect, but the stories that grew from their lives are beautiful. The stories that I heard in that hospital room witnessed to truly remarkable lives. The remembrances were music to my ears. The day of the funeral the stories continued. Stories of her childhood, stories of her career.

I wondered, those five years ago, how he could start over at the age of eighty-six? Especially when he told me, weeks after grandma was gone, that he would fall asleep in his chair, wake up and call out, "Sorry, I fell asleep! What are you doing?" As the silence ensued he would remember that he was alone.

I stayed with grandpa several weeks ago when I traveled to Nebraska to meet my new niece, Elizabeth Claire. He lives alone; cooking for one person, cleaning a three bedroom house, doing laundry, stoking the fire. His life and family continue to grow. He has two children, nine grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and countless friends, every one of whom makes sure he continues to do the laundry and cook the meals and take a few naps between trips out to the farm and applying for new patents on new dreams.

Grandpa is my inspiration during these difficult times. As we face change and challenge Grandpa reminds me that, while the change sometimes is painful and disorienting, God journeys with us. That if we continue to do the work, we will continue to grow. New joys will come along, new stories will be created, old friends will cheer us through and we will emerge, not the same, but blessed. Blessed by and for our life together.

Blessings,
 Melanie

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

There is much excitement here at the Church in the Highlands around creating a community garden. What is a community garden? According to the American Community Gardening Association (ACGS) it is very simply :any piece of land gardened by a group of people.”

The ACGS has a broad definition for a community garden. “It can be urban, suburban, or rural. It can grow flowers, vegetables or community. It can be one community plot, or can be many individual plots. It can be at a school, hospital, or in a neighborhood. It can also be a series of plots dedicated to "urban agriculture" where the produce is grown for a market.”

The definition is as broad as the benefits. A community garden can:

- Improve the quality of life for people in the neighborhood
- Provide a catalyst for neighborhood and community development
 - Stimulate Social Interaction
 - Encourage Self-Reliance
 - Beautify Neighborhoods
 - Produce Nutritious Food
- Reduce Family Food Budgets
 - Conserve Resources
- Create opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education
 - Reduce Crime
 - Preserve Green Space
- Create income opportunities and economic development
- Reduce city heat from streets and parking lots

- Provide opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections

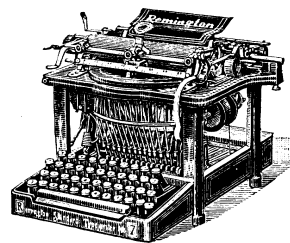
Just think of how each of these benefits can further enhance the mission of our beloved church.

We'd love to have the garden up and growing this spring, but that means a tremendous amount of work in the next few months. We know we can do it with your help! If you have experience in landscaping or gardening, please contact Melanie or Annette.

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 Grossman for more information.

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.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Sincere and grateful thanks to all members and friends who made 2009 pledges to the Church in the Highlands. To date we have only 39 pledges for 2009 (11 down from 2008). The total pledge amount as of 1-6-09 is \$58,250. 19 members increased their pledges in 2008 and 14 so far in 2009.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS & ADDRESSES

Pastor — Melanie Miller
(914) 428-4215 (home)
(914) 671-5390 (cell)
mmiller@churchinhighlands.org

Moderator — Irene Sweeny
(914) 761-7593

Vice Moderator — Ervin Graves
(914) 428-8782

Treasurer — Tony Casinelli
tcasinelli@churchinhighlands.org
(914) 997-1506

Financial Secretary — Alfred Gates
(914) 946-9641

Church School — Laurie Flynn
(914) 741-2211

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

COMMUNITY AND WORLD SERVICE

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR SENIORS

District Attorney's Office

Elder Abuse Bureau (914) 995-3000

Economic Crimes Bureau (914) 995-3303

Westchester County

Elder Abuse Helpline (914) 813-6436

Adult Protective Services (914) 995-2259

Community Resources

ElderServe—The Hebrew Home for the Aged
(800) 567-3646

Pace Women's Justice Center Helpline
(914) 287-0739

Call 911 for emergencies

Call 211 for information and referrals

www.westchesterda.net

WHITE PLAINS LIBRARY ART EXHIBIT

Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses and Crescents,
featuring the work of artist/author Mark Podwal
and local children from January 18-April 5

Letter of Thanks

We received a letter from Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison. Following is an excerpt:
"Thank you for your recent donation of \$250.00 to the Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison. Our men are well on their way to a new season of learning."

Hudson Link is grateful to be able to announce that we are expanding our program to include the women at Taconic Correction Facility. Higher education offered to incarcerated men and women has proven to be the single strongest indicator of success upon release from prison."

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 Ngohe are RN's who offer us this service.

Feb. 8, 2009	March 8, 2009
April 5, 2009	May 3, 2009
June 14, 2009	

UPDATES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

We want to thank everyone who attended the Annual Meeting. Your voice and your vote are greatly appreciated. For those of you who were unable to attend, here are a few important decisions that have been made that impact the approved budget.

These following decisions were reached with a great deal of deliberation and an enormous amount of work. The personnel committee presented the proposed cuts to the Official Board and upon approval the budget committee was able to incorporate the changes into the budget, which was approved at the Annual Meeting.

1. Due to the devastating drops in the market, coupled with a history of deficit spending we are forced to drastically cut our budget. We have **eliminated our paid choir** section leaders. We have also **eliminated two staff positions**; Assistant Treasurer and Custodian. The Assistant Treasurer duties will be performed by volunteers and the Custodian position, when open in June, will be covered by a cleaning service.
2. We have decided to **eliminate the position** Laurie filled before her retirement, Director of Children's Ministries. We have hired an interim Sunday School Teacher and hope to find a seminary intern to begin this fall.
3. The house at 46 Grandview was added to the tax rolls this year, as it is not inhabited by a minister. We hope to make some capitol

improvements to the property and this fall and **rent the house**.

4. We need people to help with **fundraising** this year. Our budget demands that we raise \$10,000, and with everyone's help we can do it!

HUGE THANK YOU TO KATHIE

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kathie Rumery for her thirty plus years of outstanding service to The Church in the Highlands. We are heartbroken that our financial situation forces us to close this chapter in our life together. Please know that we love you and thank you for all that you've done.

GOOD NEWS – DONATIONS

We have received a generous donation of a digital camera. It is simple to operate and you can use it to take pictures of events here at church. It will be stored in the office for all to use in the event that you forget to bring your own camera to record a special event.

We also received a very generous donation of nearly new office furniture. The staff is in the process of upgrading their offices. Any left over furniture will be available for sale.

INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

Do you need your home weatherized?

You can get it done free if your income meets certain guidelines. Call 813-6300 and find out if you qualify.

AGING SERVICES

813-6431

Westchester County website for Seniors

www.westchestergov.com/seniors.htm