

The Highlands

The Church in the Highlands, White Plains, NY (914)949-2023 • January 2009 • Volume 17 Number 1

JANUARY EVENTS AT THE CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

New Year's Day Open House

Please join Melanie and Bill at the Manse, 26 Idlewood Road, from 2 PM – 6 PM, for a glass of cheer and to welcome the New Year.

FRIDAY NIGHT at the MOVIES: Liberation Theology Series

January 9th @ 7:30
Romero

In a powerful and moving performance, Raul Julia portrays the revolutionary priest as he struggles to fight for peace against the violent oppression of his people. Romero became a voice of thousands who were forced into silence by torture and grave injustices. The film is an insightful and disturbing look at one man's spiritual journey to greatness amidst a homeland torn apart by civil upheaval and political oppression.

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

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.**

FAMILY WORSHIP

Saturday, January 3, 5:30 PM
followed by a Pizza Party!

**Bring your friends! Everyone
Welcome!**

Join us at The Church in The Highlands as we welcome the New Year during 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!

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. At The Brazen Fox, 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, January 7, 7 PM
At The Brazen Fox
175 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains

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

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

H.E.A.P.

Housing Energy Assistance Program

HEAP is a federally funded program that issues heating benefits to supplement a household's annual energy cost. HEAP also offers an emergency benefit for households in a heat or heat related energy emergency. Additionally, HEAP offers a furnace repair and/or replacement benefit for households with inoperable heating equipment.

Beginning November 3, you can apply for HEAP. Call 211 or the department of social services of Westchester County: 914-995-5690 or 914-995-5613

If you earn the following in your family, you might qualify:

<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
Family of one: 23,556	1,963
Family of two: 30,804	2,567
Family of three: 38,064	3,172
Family of four: 45,312	3,776
Family of five: 49,512	4,126

If your family is larger than 5 people, please call the number(s) above.

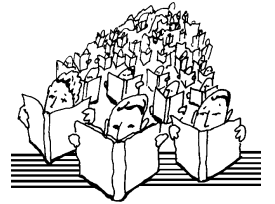
SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10 A.M.

Jan 4 – Dazzled by Light
Jan 11 – Warned in a Dream
Jan 18 – Defining Moments
Jan 25 - Leaving Your Life



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.



A THANK YOU NOTE

December 1, 2008

Dear friends at the Church in the Highlands: Thank you so much for all your kind and thoughtful remembrances, first on my 90th birthday and then yesterday – remembrances again.

I'll always remember the many experiences and the good times and the challenges the Church has offered.

Jean Uhl
Apartment 141 Pomperaug Woods
80 Heritage Road
Southbury, CT 06488
Phone: 203-262-4465

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

Reverend Subway

Seven to eleven is a huge chunk of life, full of dulling and forgetting. It is fabled that we slowly lose the gift of speech with animals, that birds no longer visit our windowsills to converse. As our eyes grow accustomed to sight they armour themselves against wonder.

-Leonard Cohen

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

Luke 18:16

I love New York City. I love the energy. I love the people. My favorite place to people watch is on the subway. Have you ever seen the HBO special titled “Subway Stories?” Supposedly, they were based on true stories that people submit. The stories are wonderfully wild and I do not doubt for one minute that anything is possible on a subway.

I have my own subway story. I’m not sure if HBO would like it or not, but that one subway trip, from Brooklyn back to Grand Central, still has me smiling.

She got on the train about two stops after me. She was well dressed. Her clothing wasn’t tattered or dirty. She was wearing a winter coat, a tan trench coat with a heavy lining. She had on black pants and black boots, not fashion boots, but sturdy, sensible winter boots: boots that I’m sure keep her feet dry and warm. She was wearing a hat, mittens and gloves and in her left, gloved, hand she carried a Bible: a big Bible.

After the train started moving, she started preaching. Her voice rose over the clatter of train on track. Her voice rose over the scattered conversations of travel companions. Her voice rose over the protests to her words. Her voice was strong and loud. It was deep for a woman’s and somewhat gravely, making me wonder if the Lord had delivered her from other evils besides cigarettes.

Her words were wrathful. There was no grace on that subway ride. She named every evil she could think of in a litany that went something like this: “There is no thiev’in in God. There is no ly’in in God. There is no cheat’in in God.” Her favorite evils seemed to be sexual, for she repeated those phrases more often than the others: “There is no homosexuality in God. There is no shack’in up in God. There is no promiscuity in God.” Her voice would rise slowly as she spoke and after reaching a crescendo while at the same time naming the offense of that particular sentence her voice would drop as she said, “in God.”

She isn’t the main character of my story. The main character of my story didn’t have a low, gravely voice, in fact he never spoke a word. He was in a stroller. He was maybe nine months old. He was wearing a fuzzy, blue, fleece hat with both matching mittens and eyes. He had a white blanket wrapped around him. He was utterly amused at the preacher. He stared at her the entire time I watched him. His eyes sparkled with curiosity and he was smiling. The baby stared at her with eyes that still remembered the face of God. I was utterly amazed that he wasn’t scared of this crazy lady, but he seemed to love her. He seemed to enjoy listening and watching and most amazingly he seemed to understand her. Perhaps that’s why he was so amused.

I think if that beautiful baby boy with the love-filled blue eyes had been able to speak he would have offered us grace. His preaching would have named all the good stuff in God. His litany might have gone something like this: “There is forgiveness in God. There is acceptance in God. There is grace in God. There is love in God. Look for the good and you will find it. Even on the subway!”

Peace,
Melanie

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

I would like to say THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for the very special Christmas/Surprise Brunch that Lorraine organized on my behalf. THANK YOU to everyone that helped make the day so meaningful. The cooks, bakers, shoppers, decorators, photographers and more. It certainly was a surprise and I can't tell you how grateful I am, it just doesn't seem to be enough compared to all that everyone did to make the day so special, and special it was. But I should also be thanking you for the many years of great joy your children brought to me. I hold each and everyone of them in my heart, and although I won't be teaching them, I'll be watching over them just the same. As if the brunch wasn't enough you folks overwhelmed me with the thoughtful and very generous gift. I look forward to the day when I can get away from it all and enjoy it.

Thank you so much! Laurie

Have you been following along with the LIVE B.I.G. church school lessons? The philosophy behind Live B.I.G. is getting the children to know GOD through Jesus with music, art, videos, dance, laughter, imagination, games and crafts.

Jan. 4 The Wise Men Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 11 Jesus in the Temple at Twelve Luke 2:141-52

Jan. 18 Jesus' Baptism Mark 1:4-11

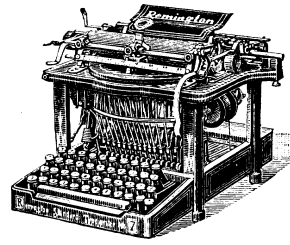
Jan. 25 Jesus Begins His Ministry Luke 4:14-22

Laurie Flynn

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.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Friends,

The word is now out that at the end of the school year I will be retiring as Nursery School Director, after forty years of service.

As you can imagine, I leave with so many wonderful memories of happy times spent with both church members and teachers. I began my journey here as a teacher and occasionally someone still recognizes the pictures of me with my classes on our "Wall of Fame."

As a director, our staff and enrollment has grown and because of my dedicated teachers we are well known in the community. The Church In The Highlands will always be my second family and will be in my thoughts and prayers. As we search for a new director, I'm sure the best is yet to come.

God Bless,

Lynn Fargo

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Green New Year Resolutions From Planet Green

Save money without spending a dime

It's easier than it sounds to save money while being green: unplug electronic equipment you aren't using; turn off the lights; lower your heat and wear an extra sweater. Switching from chemical cleaners to [homemade](#) baking soda/vinegar combos can save you \$600 a year, and taking public transportation saves countless money on gas.

Save money by investing in efficiency

Sometimes you have to spend to save—but you still don't have to spend much. Energy monitors—like [Black & Decker's](#) version for less than \$100—show you where your home is wasting energy, while a [programmable thermostat](#) could have you saving as much as 15% on your energy bill. In other cases, you might have to invest just a bit more time—making your [lunch](#) ahead of time instead of ordering take-out, baking your own [bread](#), or learn some simple home [repair](#) and skip that next call to the Maytag man.

Cut clutter

We all have too much stuff—especially if your home just received an influx of gifts over the holidays. Unclutter and [update your closet](#) by hosting a clothing swap, and keep your foyer table clear by [cutting junk mail](#). Getting rid of excess in your [home](#) by reusing it means less waste, fewer landfills, and—eventually—less energy spent on the production of a whole lot of unnecessary junk.

Lose weight

Many classic weight loss tips—eat fresh vegetables, skip the processed food aisle, cut out red meat—line up perfectly with a green lifestyle. The [bad-for-you foods](#) that are so high in calories also pack a production wallop that uses lots of energy; the packaging just creates more waste. And trading even one meat-based meal each week for a [vegetarian](#) option can help curb the effects of [global warming](#). If you're going less than one mile, trade driving for walking; for longer

distances, brush off your old 10-speed and hit the bike lane—then watch the pounds fall off.

Get involved

There's a lot to be said for getting out of your house and focusing your energy on others—or on the environment. Join a [community supported agriculture program](#) and, in exchange for a few hours work, or a few bucks per week, you'll have fresh vegetables all summer; [volunteer](#) at an animal shelter or for an [environmental charity](#) and you can feel good about making a difference. The key is matching your interests and talents with the right organization, and sometimes that could be as simple as starting at home and greening your [community](#).

Learn to recycle something new

Sure, you're a pro at putting glass, paper, and aluminum in the proper containers, and you never leave your newspaper on the subway—but what about all the other stuff you can [recycle](#)? Computers, DVD players, televisions, compact fluorescent light bulbs and cell phones all can and should be recycled, so the metals can be disposed of correctly or, even better, reused. If you're already doing this, consider starting a [compost bin](#) for your organic food scraps, capturing rainwater for watering plants and flushing the toilet, or buying clothes made from recyclable fibers.

Join a TreeHugger

Last year, an [informal poll](#) of a few TreeHugger writers resulted in green resolutions that ranged from the easy, like remembering to take a reusable bag to the grocery store, to the difficult, like not buying anything new for all of 2008. Other suggestions: using the car one less day each week; spreading the environmental gospel by going up against climate change critics, or giving out copies of *An Inconvenient Truth*; swearing off factory-farmed meat and [eating local, organic meat](#); and eating one fully [locally-sourced](#) meal each week. The point is, no matter what your lifestyle is like, there are enough green resolutions out there for you to choose the one that works for you.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The financial committee is currently working on the church budget for 2009. Their decisions are determined in a major way by the stewardship commitments of members and friends of The Church in the Highlands.

We extend thanks to all who have returned their pledge cards. We ask all yet to do so to respond promptly and generously. Every pledge is of major importance in assuring the ongoing mission and survival of our church.

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

The **Maria Ferari Children's Hospital** is having a Walk Day on Sunday February 7, 2009 at 9.30 a.m. and a kickoff breakfast for that on Saturday February 7, 2009 at 9.30 a.m. Invitations will go out in early January. Please contact Bob Gravely at 761-7057 for further details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Call Amy Faith Lionheart, Director of Volunteers at 914-864-5140 if you have time to volunteer at the Sarah Neuman Center for Healthcare and Rehabilitation.

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.

Jan. 11, 2009

Feb. 8, 2009

March 8, 2009

April 5, 2009

May 3, 2009

June 14, 2009