

ATRE BELL TOWER



"PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE WORLD JESUS LIVES OUR GOD REIGNS"

Vol. 60 No. 10 East Rockaway, N.Y. November

Bethany Church is sad to announce that the Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner has been cancelled out of an abundance of caution due to the ongoing threat of COVID 19.

We hope that everyone stays safe and has the best possible day of Thanksgiving.





Dates to Remember:

(When things get back to Normal.)

November 22...White Gift Sunday

November 26...Thanksgiving Day

December 6...Toy Collection Sunday

December 6...Christmas Card

submissions for Bell Tower

December 7...Pearl Harbor Day

December 21...Winter Begins (Brrrr!)

December 24...Christmas Eve

December 25...CHRISTMAS DAY

January 1...NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 6...Epiphany (Little Christmas)

January 18...Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

THE ANNUAL "BETHANY TOY DRIVE" for those served by the Long Island Council of

Churches will be held

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th

during the worship service. Please bring an unwrapped item. How about an item geared to a teenag-

er? If you are not yet back to attending church services because of the pandemic, you can bring your "gifts" to the church office the week before during new regular office hours (Mon., Tues., Wed., and Fri. 9 to noon).



How can we sing the Lord's Song in this Foreign Land? Psalm 137:4

ate has always been a big fan of Halloween. One of our first dates was at a Halloween Party that she and her housemates were throwing. (I wanted to wear my rabbit costume, but a female colleague said that a Zorro suit would make a better first impression). Either way, Kate married me anyway and we've been a Halloween family ever since, though these days we settle for putting out a couple of pumpkins and passing out a bag or two of candy).

his, however, is 2020, the year of Murphy's Law and, so, like some crazed creatures out of the Book of Revelation, the squirrels descended on our pumpkins in an apparent frenzy, reducing them to shreds in a matter of days. All of a sudden, I'm looking at these critters with a newfound respect and just a tinge of fear, (what they did to those pumpkins wasn't pretty). Maybe they had been bitten by some of the murder hornets we've been hearing about, or sent by an evil corporation, a mob, a militia or a Chinese or Russian spy who released them during the wildfires and/or hurricanes that have been beating up half the country while the rest of us mask up and hunker down waiting on the next disaster to come down like a nation full of Jobs. I guess even the squirrels are experiencing a bit of "pandemic fatigue."

To say that this has been a difficult year for all of us is an understatement. Our human penchant for hyperbole aside, we are struggling with something that is outside our collective experience and that, in a time already fraught with conflict, confusion and social upheaval. There is no refuge for most of us as every day is a filled with pressures and problems that many of us had not ever faced before. Our comfort zones are being stripped away from us by the necessities of dealing with the new requirements of this suddenly uncertain world in which we live. Not just the way we do things is affected either. Most of us are being challenged by ideas and claims from our fellow human beings, by circumstances that we have never experienced and all of us are facing a world in which dramatic change seems to be in the wind, for better or for worse, whether we like it or not. We Christians talk about seeing in new ways as a vital part of the faith journey, about embracing new realities while holding fast to the ultimate truths embodied in the person of Jesus the Christ and the Good News of God's transforming grace. We talk about getting up and out of our comfort zones, about the breathe of the Spirit that blows where it will and all of that good stuff. Well, those comfort zones aren't all that comfortable any more anyway, and the new realities are upon us regardless. Like the Hebrew slaves in Egypt at the time of Moses, we are being called to something new, something different than ever before. The sea of change is parting in front of us and Moses stands with his great arms

outstretched, holding back the waters so that we can cross.

ur choices are as clear today as they were then, and just as difficult. Behind us is slavery to what was, and before us is a journey through the wilderness of change. We can go forward in faith, with open minds, open hearts and open arms, trusting in the power of God's love to make all things work together for good, or we can put up our hands and fight, (as so many are), concerned with what change might cost, what it might ask of them. But we cannot go back to the way it was before because as Alice said in Lewis Carroll's famous novel, we were "different people then."

nd so, Jesus calls us, as the prophets did, Leto choose the path of blessing but also the path of risk, because it is based on a promise not yet fulfilled. But as disciples of Jesus Christ, we know that there is no Easter without Good Friday, no path to the kin-dom without the first halting steps into a brave and brandnew reality, no promised land until we have

conquered the wilderness of our comforting myths and prejudices and come together as part of the new thing that God is doing in our world today. We will get through this by remembering who and whose we are, by focusing on the "we" and not just the "me." As we hold fast to our faith, our hope and our love, our God will make something redemptive out of our struggle.

aybe that's something we can give thanks If for this year. Not for the suffering so many have endured, but for the endurance that comes, as Paul said, through suffering, in faith, hope and love as well as the redemptive promise of God's transforming love. This suffering and crying will come to an end, but Christ's promise will endure and so will we.

Happy Thanksgiving! Pastor Mark



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BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

100 Main Street, East Rockaway, New York 11518 (516) 599-5768 Maryanne Walling, Secretary, <u>bethanyoffice@optimum.net</u>, <u>www.bethanycong.org</u>

Reverend Mark Lukens, Pastor, revlu@aol.com Mildred and Art Roemer, Editors Emeritus and Guiding Lights Charles D'Agostino, Editor, Jennifer Valis, Assistant Editor Reach us directly at: cjdagostino@gmail.com or 516-721-8885

Statements made in editorials, signed articles or letters, do not represent an official position in this church. Persons with differing opinions are invited to expres their views in letters to the editor.

Are you less than perfect? Welcome! We are a community or imperfect people (including but not restricted to): squirming children and their harried parents, happy and sad people, people with challenges, seniors, young people, middle aged folks, people of every race, poor people, rich people, in between people, LGBT and straight people, true believers, seekers, agnostics, odd and ordinary people, extraordinary people, un-churched and unsure people, people with disabilities, hypocrites, saints, sinners and everybody else. Because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here just as you are!



Greetings from your Bethany Moderator

In peace, Janet Moser, Bethany Moderator

This past month has been brutal. As I am writing this, Covid numbers are soaring and the election results are still unconfirmed. The only thing nice today is the weather – and of course, I'm stuck inside at work.

Stress: tired of living with it and even tired of talking about it. So I won't! Let's take a little side trip into some useless but hopefully, interesting trivia.

It suddenly became November. My brain is still back in October but hey – it's here. Just what do you know about November?

The name November comes from the Latin <u>novem</u> which means nine. Our eleventh month is named "nine". Hmm. Well, it turns out that the ancient Roman calendar used a ten-month year and you guessed it, November was indeed the ninth month. November's flower is the chrysanthemum which is meant to symbolize honesty, joy, and optimism. I truly hope you are feeling all three right now. Some of the lesser known celebrations of the month are worth noting. We missed this one but mark your calendars, ladies, for next year. The first Thursday in November is 'National Men Make Dinner Day'. Another for the calendar is <u>Sadie Hawkins' Day</u> on November 13th. This holiday, inspired by the Li'l Abner comic strip, encourages women to take charge of their lives and to ask men out on a date, maybe to a dance.

While Thanksgiving steals the show for the end of the month, here are some companion celebrations.

National Bible Week: 21-28 (Sunday before Thanksgiving to Sunday after it.)

National Family Week: 21-27 (Always Thanksgiving Week)

National Game & Puzzle Week: 21-27 (Sunday-Saturday Thanksgiving Week)

Better Conversation Week: 22-29 (Always Thanksgiving Week)

One last entry for my fellow nerds – November 23 is **Fibonacci Day**. 11/23 – get it? Okay – moving on.

Before you know it, it will be December.
Guess where that name came from? You're right! Our twelve month is named for the Latin word for ten, <u>decem</u>. Remember that Roman calendar?

We'll save Christmas for a later writing but here are some curious dates of interest:

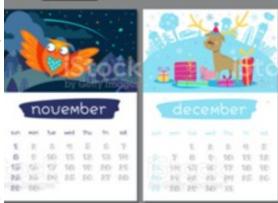
Dec. 5-11 - National Hand Washing Awareness Week. Really? I think we have cornered the market on handwashing awareness. Next, please.

Dec. 8th – **Toilet Paper Appreciation Day**. Nooooo! I want to be done with hoarding those rolls! Next!

Dec. 12th - **National Ding-a-Ling Day**. I kid you not, but are they talking about the snack (oops- those were Ding Dongs) or some of the people we encounter out there? Neither! It is to encourage people to give a call to those they haven't talked to in quite a while. Okay. I like this one.

Dec. 15th - Cat Herders Day. I work in an elementary school. It is often like trying to herd cats. I can relate.

Wherever you are and whatever you are celebrating, keep that chrysanthemum feeling going strong – honesty, joy, and optimism!



FROM THE TRUSTEES:

The Trustees had a zoom meeting on Sunday, November 8. We are trying to figure out ways to raise money for various projects that the church needs to be done. If you have any thoughts on a good fundraiser please advise one of our trustees or contact the editor, Charlie D'Agostino...516-721-8885.

We just had to spend a little over \$800. to repair one of the furnaces and that was just for parts. Labor is covered under our contract but not the needed parts.

Boy Scout Troop 121 at Bethany is hoping to complete three (3) different Eagle Scout projects for 3 of their boys. Finn will be filling in the potholes in our parking lot; Aidan will be coordinating the painting the lower half of the gym; Jonathan plans to replace the floor in Room 301. We hope they all get approved by the scout organization.

If you would like to attend any Sunday, please call the office during the week so that Maryanne can reserve you a seat or two. If you cannot attend services, please remember to send in your donations to the office. Thank you.



What a Blessing, Sunday November 8, as *Jacqueline Rae Webb* was baptized into the care of Christ's Church and joined the Bethany Family. We had a small but very special family service led by our dear Pastor Mark. The Webb Family, Harold, Rebecca (Henck) and Christina, and godparents, Sara (Henck) Wallace, Jessica Henck and Michael Rochette, as well as our families are most appreciative. Although ideally, we would have loved to celebrate this blessed occasion in the presence of our Bethany Church Family, we know you are always there in spirit!

We gratefully wish to acknowledge Pastor

Mark for his loving words, Kate Whitney for her beautiful musical accompaniment, Ethel Gilloon and Rich Eaves for their participation and Maryanne Walling for her service preparation.

With Love and Thanks.

The Webb and Henck Families



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN... FOR THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE OF THE BELL TOWER...

If you would like your name added to our "Christmas Card",

Please fill out the form below and return



it to the Office or give to Maryanne. The cost to include your name in this Special Edition is \$2.00 per name. The DEADLINE TO SUBMIT all names is Sunday, December 6th.

Names:				

FROM THE EDITOR:

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSINGS OF PETE SOBEY AND BILL KEANE.

PRAYERS for: Juanola, Chris, Jane, Phil, Joan, Carol, Doug and the Partos and Sineo families



FOOD PANTRY

We are collecting school supplies and food to be given to the children served by our Lond Island Council of Churches' Food Pantry. Bring all donations to church on Sundays or to the church office during regular office hours. If you have any questions, please contact the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry at 516-868-4989.

The Kind of Story We Need Right Now....

Greek Athlete Carries Disabled Woman Up Mount Olympus, Fulfilling Her Lifelong Dream

(October 2020) Greek mythology is filled with tales of heroic strength—perhaps the most famous being that of Atlas, who singlehandedly held the heavens aloft.

In a singularly uplifting modern-day version of Atlas come to life, one courageous athlete recently climbed Mount Olympus—home to the ancient gods—carrying a disabled comrade to the summit with him piggy-back style. Long-distance runner Marios Giannakou has a long track record of taking on challenges: He's trekked 168 miles across the Al Marmoum Desert and he also took first place in a frigid 93-mile cross-country race in Antarctica. Prior to his latest endeavor, he had already successfully taken in the view from atop Mount Olympus' highest peak 50 times. When Giannakou met and befriended 22-year-old biology student Eleftheria Tosiou and learned of her dream to experience the summit herself, it seemed only natural that he was more than ready to rise to the occasion. "For me, all international races, the medals and the distinctions so far, mean little compared to that goal," he told the *Greek Reporter*.

ith Tosiou securely harnessed in a specially modified backpack, Giannakos, along with an eight-member support team, started to the grueling ascent of Olympus's tallest peak, Mount Mytikas. When they reached 2,400 meters, the party stopped to rest. After making camp for the night, they resumed their climb at 6 a.m. the following morning. Three hours later, at 9:02 local time—having put in more than 10 hours climbing all told—the triumphant pair reached the 2,918-meter summit. "There is nothing more real than the dream," an ecstatic Giannakou posted to his Instagram. It's heartening to know that while we generally think of heroes as the stuff of myth and legend, there are actually some shining examples—like Marios Giannakou—who exist in real life as well.

YUMMY APPETIZERS BY LINDA

GUACAMOLE

4 RIPE AVOCADOS

3 TABLESPOONS FRESHLY SQUEEZED LEMON JUICE (1 LEMON)

8 DASHES HOT PEPPER SAUCE

1/2 CUP SMALL DICED RED ONION (1 SMALL RED ONION)

1 LARGE GARLIC, CLOVE, MINCED

1 TEASPOON KOSHER SALT

1 TEASPOON FRESHLY GROUND BLACK PEPPER

1 MEDIUM TOMATO, SEEDED AND DICED SMALL

CUT AVOCADOS IN HALF, REMOVE PITS. SCOOP THE FLESH OUT OF THEIR SHELLS INTO BOWL. IMMEDIATELY ADD THE LEMON JUICE, HOT PEPPER SAUCE, RED ONION, GARLIC, SALT AND PEPPI TOSS WELL. SLICE THROUGH THE AVOCADOS IN THE BOWL UNTIL THEY ARE FINELY DICED. AD TOMATOES, MIX AGAIN WITH SPOON. SERVE WITH TORTILLA CHIPS.

QUICK AND EASY HOT MEXICAN DIP

1 - 8 OUNCE CREAM CHEESE

1 CAN HORMEL CHUNKY WITH BEANS

1 - 8 OUNCE BAG OF SHREDDED CHEDDAR

SPREAD CREAM CHEESE IN BOTTOM OF OVEN PROOF DISH

SCOOP HORMEL BEANS ON TOP AND SPREAD EVENLY

TOP WITH SHREDDED CHEDDAR, BAKE ABOUT 15 MINUTES AT 350 OR UNTIL CHEESE IS MELTED. SERVE WITH TORTILLA CHIPS.

BROCCOLI STUFFED TOMATOES

20 SMALL PLUM TOMATOES

1 CUP ITALIAN BREAD CRUMBS

1/2 CUP OLIVE OIL

1-8 OUNCE PACKAGE SHREDDED MOZZARELLA

1 PACKAGE CHOPPED BROCCOLI

2 CLOVES GARLIC, MINCED

1 TABLESPOON GRATED CHEESE

1/2 TEASPOON PEPPER

LIGHTLY SPRAY ALUMINUM WITH PAM. CUT TOMATOES IN HALF LENGHTWISE. SCOOP OUT PULP, DISCARD. COOK BROCCOLI ACCORDING TO PACKAGE DIRECTIONS, SQUEEZE OUT EXCESS WATER. MIX ALL OTHER INGREDIENTS TOGETHER. STUFF INTO TOMATOES. BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 30 MINUTES.

EVERYONE ENDOY YOUR APPETIZERS! THIS IS SO SIMPLE...MIX ONE 8 OUNCE CREAM CHEESE WITH A DAR OF FLUFF. OPTIONAL: ADD 1 TEASPOON OF VANILLA OR 1 TEASPOON OF LEMON ZEST SERVE WITH FRUIT! APPLES, GRAPES WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT! CHEF LINDA FARDELLA:)

WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

For the safety of our members and community, the Women's League has decided to cancel our Christmas Fair. We will recharge and be ready for 2021!

\$ Last Ticket Pulled Raffle

Sunday School's Fundraiser

Top Prize \$1250...LAST ticket pulled

Other prizes include:

1st ticket pulled \$50

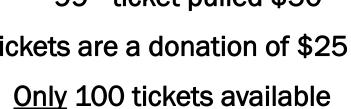
25th ticket pulled \$50

50th ticket pulled \$50

75th ticket pulled \$50

99th ticket pulled \$50

Tickets are a donation of \$25





Find out DECEMBER 20,2020

Call Tina Lewald @917-270-6509 or email

Tina2000_10465@yahoo.com for tickets

Thank you for your support

BOOK REVIEW

By Lou Gaspari

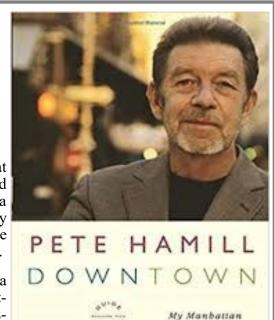
Downtown

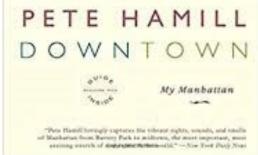
By Pete Hamill

ete Hamill passed away on August 20, 2020. He had a great career as an iconic journalist, newspaperman, novelist and editor of both the NY Daily News and the NY Post. He was a fantastic essayist, educator, lecturer and a person we can only hope that the media emulates. He has written more than thirty-five (35) books. Most of them concern the city which he dearly loved.

owntown, to me, is one of them that takes the reader to a journey through the greatest city in the world from the Battery to 42nd Street. The book is a tribute to the city and is part history, part memoirs, total enjoyment.

Then you read one of Hamill's books you will want to read the many other books that he has authored.





TROOP 121

First, the scouts, leaders and families of Troop121 would like to thank all of the Veterans as we celebrate Veteran's Day this November 11th 2000 1 brate Veteran's Day this November 11th. 2020 has thrown many challenges to everyone and the Scouting program is no different. This year we had virtual meetings and now we are back to having meetings in person as safety regulations permits and many thanks to Bethany for letting us use the gym again. We had one Scout, Matt R. complete his Eagle Scout project for a school in Queens for special needs students. With the help of scouts, friends and family he coordinated the assembly of supply boxes for each student to help reduce many hands touching all of the supplies. On November 14th and 15th Finn B. will be patching holes in Bethany's parking lot and fix some issues with the garage. We also have two more scouts getting ready for their projects, one will repainting the gym and the other will be fixing the floor in room 301. As always, we are very proud of all the young men.

n November 21st, we will be going out to Schiff Scout Reservation for our annual Campsgiving trip. The boys will be doing shooting sports: rifle, shotgun and archery while some of the adults will prepare our Thanksgiving feast. Usually we will camp for the weekend, and the boys help cook, but do to Covid rules we are not allowed to camp over night. We will update you next month with some pictures. We always appreciate the support of the Bethany family in helping us guide these boys into young men of our community.

Sincerely, Nick Sincinito, Scoutmaster Troop 121

(For more information, please visit the troop's website: http://troop121ny.org)

TODAY'S YOUTH...TOMORROW'S LEADERS

THRIFtique

We are pleased to announce that the Thrift Shop at Bethany Congregational Church located at 100 Main Street. East Rockaway, NY, is open for business once again. Our hours are Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Entry of people will be limited to few at a time, temperatures will be taken, hand sanitizer and masks must be used and social distancing will be put into practice to help keep both customers and staff healthy and safe.

We carry many items in our shop and there's something for everyone!

> Looking forward to seeing friends - old and new - real soon!



Bethany is looking for a *Not-For-Profit* Organization to rent the space that we have downstairs.

We are looking to rent the large room, smaller room and 3 small office size rooms plus two (2) large storage areas.

If you know of any interested group, please have them contact:

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If you enjoy <u>The Bell Tower</u> and you would like to see your name here, please send a small donation to Bethany Church.
It helps to offset costs.



Mural in the Fellowship Hall

Courtesy of Diana Harrison and Anthony Claverie