

SCARBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

www.scarboroughchurch.org

Articles Invited from Members & Friends

March 2009

Rev. Timothy Ives, Pastor
Mr. Kenneth Potter, Choir Director & Organist
Mrs. Barbara Devir, Commissioned Lay Pastor
Ms. Florence Fletcher, Office Administrator
Mrs. Katya Montelbano, Director Children's Center

P.O. Box 8835, Scarborough, N.Y. 10510
Church (914)941-1142; Fax (914)944-0027
e-mail: office@scarboroughchurch.org
SPChildren's Center (914)941-0025
SPCC e-mail: spchildrenscenter@yahoo.com

WORSHIP CALENDAR

10:30am Worship

Communion 1st Sunday of the Month.
Childcare provided for 1st grade + younger

- March 1 **The Rainbow Covenant**
Communion
Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15
- March 8 **Whose Side?**
Genesis 17:1-7; Mark 8:31-38
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 15 **Commandments**
Exodus 20:1-17; John 2:13-22
- March 22 **Not to Condemn**
Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21
New Members Lunch
- March 29 **Draw All People**
Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33
- April 5 **When Friday Comes**
Isaiah 50:4-9; Mark 11:1-11

Happy Lent

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!"
-Psalm 100

Lent begins this year on February 25. Winter seems to still be hanging on but the light has changed and that will herald the slow thaw back to life. Originally the time before Easter was to prepare for baptism. In the early days of the church many new converts would be baptized on Easter morning. The time leading up to that event was taken up with studying, fasting and prayer. In other words it was a time of preparation for new life. After Christianity became a part of the Roman Empire the tradition of being baptized on Easter was abandoned because there were simply too many converts to have only one day when a person could be baptized into the church. Lent then became a time of repentance and not necessarily a time for preparation for new life.

Lent has become at its very worst a time of trivial self denial. People will give up certain habits for Lent. Some people give up chocolate or smoking or drinking or some vice that they think they should get rid of. I have never followed this tradition. I have always thought God wanted a little more from me than giving up chocolate. Though giving up bad habits can help us live in a more healthy way I am not sure that qualifies as preparing for new life. My problem with how Lent is "celebrated" now comes from the fact that there is something called Fat Tuesday. Fat Tuesday is observed as one last fling before one takes up more Godly ways. The implication is clear. God is not much fun and is really much more on the side of deadliness than liveliness. This

Henry Nouwen writes, "In the midst of a turbulent, often chaotic, life we are called to reach out with courageous honesty to our innermost self, with restless care to our fellow human beings, and with increasing prayer to our God. To do that, however, we must face and explore our inner restlessness, our mixed feelings toward others, and our deep-seated suspicions about the absence of God." It is this journey that Lent is all about, and this year, we invite you to join us in it.

does not fit for me. My God is not the eternal killjoy who wants to root out any manner of fun or enjoyment. That is not my idea of life and I doubt it is yours.

It is not that I think that there is not a place for being penitent. It is not that I do not think that we should not take time for atonement but for Christians this is not about feeling bad or guilty. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming that the time is at hand .and because the time is at hand we are called and invited to repent. (oh-oh another one of those words that sounds like the church at its deadliest!) However, to repent as Jesus asks literally means to return to God in a particular way. It is not with sad or heavy hearts. Jesus invites us to return to God and believe in the good news. The good news is that our God is here among us loving us and always extending us chance after chance to return. That does not sound at all deadening to me. That sounds like the preparation for life that those early Christians went through as they anticipated a truly life changing experience.

Lent is not the time for deadness. That belongs to the winter now exiting. Lent belongs to the new light that we can sense in the changing of the season. It is the anticipation of the of an incredible abundant bursting forth of sacred life. That is nothing to feel bad about: it is truly something to celebrate.

Happy Lent!

WORSHIP SUPPORT TEAMS

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Coffee Hour Host</u>
3/1	Beth Henriques Kathy Shaffren		Linnea Carnes
3/8	Gene Croft Cory Ethridge		Jan Waldo
3/15	Lisa Pavlik Malcolm Kostuchenko		Catherine Savell
3/22	Catherine Savell Don Swartout		Terri Zuckerberg
3/29	John Codman Sandy Evans		Catherine McKinley
4/5	Angela Rogers Will Ingraham		Signe Seelinger
4/12	Gene Croft, Ed Payne Steven Cho, Karin Chaudhari		Deacons Easter Formal Coffee Hr.
4/19	Peter Chapman Linnea Carnes		Camille Lane
4/26	Tom Davis Debbie Wenninger		Inge & Ken Vought

We need volunteers. Sign Up sheets are located on the Information table in the Chapel. If you are unable to serve on the assigned dates, please arrange for a substitute and/or call the office; you will receive a reminder call the week prior to your date of service. Guidesheets are posted at the Pastor's Study and Kitchenette. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to serve in this way.

Opportunity for Personal Ministry

CLP Barbara Devir has formed a **Prison Letter Writing Group** as an out-growth of response to the Christmas card effort.

The group will **meet here on Monday, March 2nd at 11:00.** For more information, or call Barbara at 923-3517.

MARCH ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

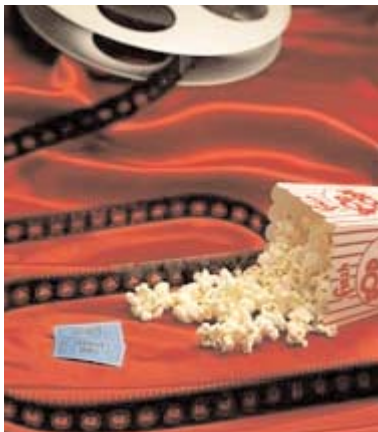
NEW BOOK CLUB FORMING: Angela Rogers is leading a Women's Book Group starting Friday, March 27th, at 6:30 pm meeting at Angela's home. The first book to be discussed will be: *The Shack* by William P. Young. The discussion will focus on the characters in the book. Please feel free to contact Angela at: arogers35@hotmail.com or 845-665-9838 with any questions and to sign up. We hope to continue to meet on the 4th Friday of the month!

COURSE OFFERING: We are fortunate to have Ashok Chaudhari, graduate of Union Theological Seminary (MDIV) and Stanford University (MA Religious Studies) and a Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament under care of the Hudson River Presbytery, leading a discussion group on *The Book of Confessions*. We began weekly meetings on Sunday, January 11th at 9:30 a.m. and will continue for a total of 13 weeks. Please feel free to come join us any Sunday morning before the 10:30 service. *The Book of Confessions* is one of the two parts of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). (The other part is *The Book of Order*.) *The Book of Confessions* has in it various confessions (which are statements of belief or conviction) made throughout history which were chosen by the church to be included in the book and form the backbone of our church theology. We read and discuss one Confession each time we meet. The reading & discussion schedule is: *The Theological Declaration of the Barmen* on March 1st & March 15th, no class on March 8th; *The Confession of 1967* on March 22nd & March 29th; *A Brief Statement of Faith* on April 5th; *The Athanasian Creed* on April 12th which happens to be Easter Sunday. Please contact Ashok Chaudhari at ac2300@columbia.edu with any questions. Those who have copies of *The Book of Confessions*, please bring them with you. Extra copies are available in the church office.

LECTURE SERIES: Rev. Dr. Tim Ives continues his monthly series of lectures on "The Second Death of Christ." Rev. Ives looks at the diversity and tolerance that was part of the church in the first three cen-

turies of existence. Then a change came with the first Christian Emperor Constantine. Did the resulting orthodoxy help or hurt the ministry of Christ? Tim will conclude the series with his final two lectures on Feb. 27th and April 17th at 7 p.m. Please feel free to join in at any time. Refreshments will be provided. Call the office at 941-1142 with any questions.

BIBLE STUDY: Rev. Ives leads weekly Bible study of the Sunday Lectionary Readings every Wednesday at 11 a.m. This is an opportunity to look at the Bible with historical and theological perspectives. Come for discussion only or bring a bag lunch. Please call the office at 941-1142 if interested in attending. Everyone is welcome to join at any time and can find the Lectionary Readings online at www.PCUSA.org by selecting: Devotions and Readings.



DINNER & A MOVIE GROUP: The group met on Feb. 13th to view and discuss "Beloved," the movie based on Toni Morrison's novel. Please join us for our next potluck dinner, movie viewing and sharing on Friday March 13th at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House Conference room where

we will view "**The Gin Game**" Contact Kathy Davis: housekyd21@aol.com or #941-5537 with movie suggestions and if you would like to attend.

SPIRITUAL LIFE DINNERS: continue to meet every first and third Thursdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Dinner is provided by regular participants and all are welcome to come and share in the meal and conversation. Meetings are planned for: March 5th & 19th, and April 2nd & 16th. Spiritual Life Dinners have been ongoing for the last five years and sustained by participants sharing their individual spiritual journeys while sitting around the great big table in Fellowship Hall and enjoying a delicious meal provided by regular participants. We begin with Prayer and Blessing of the Food. After casual conversation while passing the food around we move into our "true sharing" with each other in turns. Everyone is asked to listen with open and authentic hearts and minds. After everyone has had the opportunity to share, as he or she has felt led, discussions often take place around topics related to someone's sharing and continue over dishwashing. We try to close with prayer around the table before anyone has to leave, around 9 p.m.

For newcomers: we gather at 6:30 p.m. for our opening prayer and pass the food around over casual conversation. Then we often ask newcomers to share a

little about their religious background and/or spiritual journey and if appropriate go around the table introducing ourselves to the newcomers by sharing a bit about our religious backgrounds and spiritual journeys. Otherwise we take turns sharing with each other whatever we are inspired to share about our spiritual lives at this moment. Everyone is invited and given the space to share their truth. This makes the space sacred and holy.

Spiritual Life Dinners are an open place for anyone who feels moved to share as well as explore their journey. All are invited to join at any time. Spiritual Life has sometimes served as an entrance for some into the Church through fellowship with a small group. Please feel free to contact Karin Chaudhari at #941-5736 or Amy Kitahata-Sporn at amyks@optonline.net if you would like to know more.

LENTEN MEDITATION: Rev. Ives will lead a special Lenten reflection on Thursday, April 2nd joining the Spiritual Life Dinner meeting. We invite all to come to this special Lenten gathering. Dinner is provided and begins at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the SPC office if you would like to attend.

Do visit the SPC LENDING LIBRARY--located in the charming room next to the sanctuary.

Along with a few recent best selling novels, an embarrassment of riches can be found there-- from recent discourses on Christianity and other religions...to relationships...to philosophy...and on and on.

There are also a few books of private devotions that belonged to a former church member. You are welcome to take and keep them as your own.

New Titles in the Lending Library:
Marcus Borg - Jesus: A New Vision; Eckhart Tolle - The Power of Now; Robert McAfee Brown - The Bible Speaks to You; Paul Tillich: The Courage to Be.

Please Note:

Copies of the Annual Report are available on the information table in the Chapel. For those who were not able to be present, a copy is being mailed to you.

Please consider how your gifts can help our congregation grow in spirit and in size. Then contact the appropriate Elder or Deacon and offer your services. Fresh ideas and energy renew the vitality of this body.

Thank You

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-Andy McMains
4-Virginia Croft
5-Jocelyn Fontana
8-John Curran
10-Katya Montelbano (SPCC)
15-Victoria Copans
16-Frank H.J. Fontana
18-Rachael Longo
19-Isabella Anglin
Ryan Montelbano (SPCC)
21-Kailyn Reilly
22-Michael Longo
24-Ryan Cerny
27-Jay Sutterlin
Connor Longo
Theresa DiRosa (SPCC)
30-Jim Simmons



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

SCARBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER February / March 2009

This winter the children at SPCC have enjoyed learning about snow, ice, bears shadows, friendships and caring. Each class has had some fun celebrations - Chinese New Year, Pajama Day, and the 4's class has even discussed Martin Luther King's dream with the children. At the end of February we will have a Mardi Gras celebration and pancake day. We are also looking forward to a visit from Dr. Ann Guerra to speak with the children regarding healthy dental practices. In March the children will be learning about St. Patrick's Day, weather and Spring. We will also have two visits from "The Nature of Things", an organization that brings nature and animals to children's programs to educate and inform.

Registration for the 2009 - 2010 school year is still on-going. We are now accepting applications for:

- *an Afternoon Four's Class, which will meet Tuesday - Friday Afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00pm.
- *an Afternoon Three Year Old Class that meets Tuesday - Friday Afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00pm.
- *an Afternoon Two Year Old Class that meets Tuesday & Thursday Afternoon from 12:30- 2:30pm
- * Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Afternoon from 12:30pm - 2:30pm.

If you are interested, in any registration information, please give me a call at 941-0025, ext. 17.

The 2nd Semester of **Afternoon Enrichment Classes** for 3 to 5 year olds is now in full swing. The Winter/Spring Enrichment Semester runs through May. There are still a few spaces available. Tuesday is our Go-Green Recycled Art class, Wednesday is

Cooking with Literature, Thursday is Science and Sensory Exploration and Friday is our very popular Sports and Games class.

The 2nd semester of **LunchBunch** which meets from 11:30 - 12:00noon is also in full swing. If you would like to enroll your 3 or 4 year old child in our LunchBunch extended day program, please stop by the office for an application. LunchBunch is a half hour extension of your child's day. Children gather together for Lunch (parents provide the lunch - please no peanut products), they play games, read stories and socialize. Ms. Ashley, Ms. Helen and Ms. Lucy are our LunchBunch teachers.

Starting in March we will be accepting **Registration for the 2009 Summer Camp** program that begins on Monday, June 16th. Summer Camp runs from June 15th through Friday, August 7th. Summer camp hours are 9:00am to 12:00 noon. The children enjoy lots of time outdoors with water play, sprinklers, bikes, and playground time. Indoors they enjoy arts & crafts, freeplay, snacks and storytime. If you are interested, in any registration information, please give me a call at 941-0025, ext. 17.

On Friday, April 24th we will hold our **3rd Annual Fun Family Night - Spaghetti Dinner**. There will be a children's performance by Evy Dee - the Magician Clown to entertain the children. Please RSVP by April 17th. The dinner will cost \$20 per adult and \$10 per child or \$40.00 per family. **We are looking for donations of items to raffle or auction off.** If you have tickets or have resources to tap for tickets to a Broadway show, concert or sporting event we would love to hear from you. Other ideas for raffle and auction items could include a donation of your or your company's services. In the past we have received and auctioned off certificates for free cooking demonstrations, an art or craft lesson, doctor or chiropractic exam, yard work, personal invitations or announcements printed just for you and sports lessons. If you would like to make a donation, please give me a call at the school at 941-0025. If you can not attend or do not have an item to donate to the raffle, please feel free to make a monetary donation. All donations are tax deductible. All proceeds from the Parent - Child Spaghetti Dinner will benefit the Children of SPCC. Monies raised will be used to purchase equipment for the classrooms or playground and will go towards our Scholarship Program.

As a reminder, *SPCC is a totally nut-free environment.* Please do not bring any nut products onto school premises. This includes Fellowship Hall, the kitchen and the playground. We have children that attend our program that have severe nut allergies that are life threatening. Your help in keeping our children safe is greatly appreciated.

With wishes for health & happiness for all,
Katya Montelbano
Director SPCC

Thomas Family Newsletter

from Woodstock School, Mussoorie India - March, 2009



Building a RAFT

Well, it's official and it is finally sinking in - our four years at Woodstock School in northern India are coming to an end. In this last semester, we have a lot to do to begin saying goodbye. The staff advisors to the Senior Class suggest that the students start building a "RAFT" - Reconciliation of conflicts, Affirmation of important relationships, Farewells performed in culturally appropriate ways, Thinking realistically and positively about one's destination. The last seems hard to do, because our future is unknown at this point and the economic forecast grim. We are leaving with no jobs secured yet - a test of faith. It is akin to our leap of faith in 2005 when we left jobs to go to India without official PCUSA mission support. God was faithful, and we believe God is faithful still. God surrounded us with friends and family who sustained us and partnered with us to reach out to people in need here in India. We feel strongly that we should be closer to our first-born as he enters college in the fall. And all of us are ready for a pause, a furlough, some time with friends and family to recharge our batteries. Graduation in June will provide a natural way to say farewell to the students we have advised during our four years here. But we must also begin now to involve others in the outreach work we will no longer be able to coordinate - the women's self-help group called Monsters and More, the Bel Gaon village school, the children and nurse who will continue to need tuition support. Just yesterday, a family expressed interest in supporting the nursing student you have helped to complete three years of nurses training through donations to the Thomas India

Mission Fund. Who will God speak to next?

We ask for your help as we look for jobs - Jeff will need to extend his provisional teaching certificate, and at the same time would welcome being back in his area of expertise in IT - he has experience in academic, publishing, finance and student registration. Barb will seek out Christian Education, classroom teaching or assisting, or office work. At least one of us will need to work full-time for medical benefits for the family. Right now, we see our time in the States as temporary - for one year - before we return to the mission field or move on to another international school. Please pray for jobs for us beginning in the summer - and let us know if you have a lead we should follow.

We are still smiling as we remember the recent visit of two of Barb's sisters - our time together is chronicled at ThomasIndia.blogspot.com. It included Mughal palaces, incredible wildlife including a tiger up close, a night in the local hospital recuperating from "Delhi Belly" and a hike around the top of our mountain to see the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas. We encourage you to come visit while we can be your local tour guides - Woodstock School has facilities for mission groups and we have room for individuals. We would love to share this part of God's creation with you.

Prayers were answered recently as we had a snow-storm, only the second this winter, and a rainstorm - the local farmers' crops may be saved and the school water supply replenished. Imagine blinding snow on our mountain top at the same time as booming thunder and lightening in the valley below - awesome. Our love and prayers are with you as you welcome the beauty of Spring and the season of Lent.

--Namaste,

Jeff, Barb, Chris and Coleman Thomas
Woodstock School Mussoorie UK 248179 India
barbarathomas@woodstock.ac.in

Thomas India Mission Fund c/o Doris Kersten, Coordinator
Checks to made out to: Pleasantville Presbyterian Church
(memo line Thomas India Mission Fund)
400 Bedford Rd Pleasantville, NY 10570

Reminder:

All submissions for the Newsletter must be received in the office no later than the 20th of each month to insure timely mailings.



WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the first **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**. Over the years, thanks to Presbyterians' generosity, the offering has made a tremendous difference to people experiencing need around the world. The financial crisis that began in the United States has now touched all corners of the world. As it has often been said,

When the United States gets the sniffles, the most vulnerable nations and peoples contract economic pneumonia.

We know that many of our congregations are wondering about their financial future. But we also know that the world's poorest are wondering, "Can I feed my family today?" For this reason, on this sixtieth anniversary of the offering, we need to ask ourselves how much greater our capacity for sharing may be. This is a challenge we cannot meet without a bold, new approach to the offering. For years we have urged congregations to set an ambitious goal -- increasing their gift by 15 percent--but this year we are asking individuals and congregations to **double** their previous gifts. It's a tall order, but we have no doubt that most individuals and congregations can meet it, knowing that it will help so many around the world. --excerpt from letter 2009 Associate for Special Offering (PCUSA) Alan Krome and Compassion, Peace, and Justice Director Sara Pottschmidt Lisherness

How are these gifts used by the PC(USA) offering?

They are roughly divided into thirds. Each of three programs--Self-development of People (SDOP), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)--receives 32 percent of the offering; the remaining 4 percent goes to the PHP for its work on homelessness and affordable housing.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also
Matthew 6:21

The following list are those persons elected by the congregation who are willing to serve in a leadership capacity. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail if you have a prayer request, an idea, a joy, a concern, a resource or a talent to share.

SPC LEADERSHIP 2009

Rev. Timothy Ives	645-1482	Pastor TIves4932@aol.com
Elder Barbara Devir	923-3517	CLP Prison Ministry barbdevir@yahoo.com

Church Treasurer

Jim Simmons	762-0979	simmonslaw@hotmail.com
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Elders

Linnea Carnes	941-0996	Personnel; SPCC linnea529@aol.com
Patty Chapman	760-2453	Christian Education pchapman@stonesoupmarketing.com
Karin Chaudhari	941-5736	Congreg'l Life/Flowers karin.chaud@hotmail.com
Steven Cho	762-9129	Buildings & Grounds shcho@optonline.net
Richard Cody	769-5929	Stewardship/Finance rmcody2verizon.net
Connie Curran	941-3622	SPChildren's Center ccscarborough@yahoo.com
Tom Davis	941-5537	Clerk of Session davis@clm.com
Lindsay Farrell	762-6586	Worship & Music lfarrell@ood.org
Will Ingraham	923-3736	Finance, B&G wingraham@mac.com
Amy Kitahata-Sporn	944-0471	Adult Christ. Educ. amyks@optonline.net
John Pavlik	762-4827	Communications john@thepavliks.com
Ed Payne	941-5407	edwin.payne@verizon.com

Deacons

Susan Burlazzi	631-6611	sburlazzi@yahoo.com
Peter Chapman	490-1882	chapman@steinersports.com
Barbara Cody	769-5929	barbaracody@yahoo.com
Kathy Davis	941-5537	housekyd21@aol.com
Beth Henriques	762-7847	landairnyc@msn.com
Lucy Milne	373-4133	(President) lucymilne@optonline.net
Claire Payne	941-5407	claire.payne@verizon.net
Angela Rogers	(845)665-9838	(Secretary) arogers35@hotmail.com
Signe Seelinger	941-6862	signek@aol.com
Inge Vought	271-5223	ivought@optonline.net
Debbie Wenninger	769-5476	(Treasurer) wenn27@aol.com
Terri Zuckerberg	762-8222	Theresa907@verizon.net

Congregational Nominating Committee

Lisa Cerny, Michele Croft, Connie Curran, Amy Kitahata-Sporn, Catherine Savell, Jay Sutterlin and one Deacon