

October 2013

Dates to Remember

October 6 Communion Sunday Brunch following each service 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Church School Adult Ed Parenting Class 10:45am Worship Service 2pm Blessing of the Animals 4:30pm Concert - Mykola Suk

October 13, 20, 17 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Church School Adult Ed Parenting Class 10:45am Worship Service

The Disciple

Abundance As Something We Live Into

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b). Psalm 23:5 says, "My cup overflows." On the fifth day of creation, God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures" (Genesis 1:20). A friend of Job says, "God gives food in abundance" (36:31b). The Psalmist says of the Israelites in the wilderness, "They asked, and God brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance" (105:40). The parable of the sower and the seed concludes, "Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold" (Mark 4:8). Jesus preached, "See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these" (Matthew 6:28-29).

What do all of these scripture verses have in common? They all speak about abundance as something more than what we accumulate. They speak about abundance as something we live into that is around us all the time. So, I invite you to take the 31-Day Abundance Challenge during the month of October and live into the abundance all around us. Can you name 31 different signs of abundance in your life? Can you name 31 signs of abundance in your faith, our church and ministry? Can you name 31 examples of God's plentiful blessings in the larger world?

Our stewardship theme this year is #abundance. The "#" (called hashtag) symbol typed before a word in social media that helps organize thoughts people share online. If you



want to see what people are saying about the United States Men's National Team on Facebook or Twitter, search under s. you can search

#USNMT. During presbytery meetings, you can search #hudrivpres on Twitter to see what people are talking related to the meeting's content. We are using # in front of the word abundance this year to do what happens all the time in social media—organize our lives around that word.

Really, it is more than a word. #abundance is a practice, the practice of seeing the blessings in our lives, what is plentiful, what is good, what is beautiful. How can we create space for 31 days to see the abundance of life, the abundance of God's presence, the abundance of faith? The verses above point to signs of abundance everywhere, but we may be missing them. We may be caught in narratives of scarcity, brokenness, injustice, loss. The 31-day challenge invites us to practice abundance, to make it a verb rather than a noun, something we see and do rather than get and hoard. How can we live abundance that seeks a life that



Rev. Chip Low Pastor

is becoming as generous as God has been to us?

#abundance also invites us to consider our ministry. How can we share what we have to continue growing as the generous, life-giving body of Christ that we are? I'm hoping we all have an answer to that question (31 perhaps). One particular answer is youth. God has blessed us with an abundance of youth, but there is a gap in our ministry because we are not engaging them after confirmation. We are, instead, confirming them out of the church. So, what should we conclude? We have an abundance of youth not attending church, or an abundance of youth we could reach and walk with through their lives? We have set a goal for ourselves to engage youth. What abundance has God already given us that prepares us to do that? How can we live into the abundance we already have and make that ministry real?

I hope you will join us at one of the small group conversations to discuss your answers to these questions. They are intended to be a conversation about the ministry and direction of our church. These conversations will highlight the work of the Youth Design Team and what it means to broaden our church's ministry to engage youth both inside and outside our church, discuss the budget plans for 2014 and the direction of our ministry, and to invite us to live #abundance in our ministry for all people. I hope you will come to listen, ask questions, share your thoughts, enjoy fellowship and eat delicious desserts. Thanks to our host families for creating a space for all of that to happen.

As we become more aware of God's #abundance in us, around us and through us, our faith, our life together and our ministry in our community can only grow. We will be living the mission of our ministry: connecting to God, one another and the world. I pray that will happen as we enter the 31 days of abundance challenge this month.

The Disciple

Church School "Chalkboard"

The Faithful Parenting adult education class continues each Sunday at 9:30. Our focus will be on how we can grow in our own faith as parents so that we can pass that faith on to our children, no matter how big or small. Come, join our supportive group as we share our struggles, learn from each other and grow in faith together. Any questions, please contact Tami Seidel

(tami@fpcyorktown.org).

We had a great kick off to Church School! It was wonderful to see all the children from preschool to 8th grade together in the same room! The little ones really look up to the older children. Binders were assembled and are being kept in the Fellowship Hall. Inside are prayers, songs we are learning during the Gathering Time and places for the children to keep work they've done during their rotations. As we begin to discover who we are in our "Quest For Identity" the binders too will evolve. Have

you seen your child's creation? Please be sure to check back every so often to see what they are doing. Our unit for the first five weeks is "loseph and his Brothers". The children were introduced to the unit by a visit from Joseph. His message was that God looks at us as a gift that makes us stand out among others. Our challenge is to discover what those gifts are and how to use them. This Bible verse for the Thanks! unit is ~ Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were

blowing down to me. Genesis 37:9

Please also listen for your child singing or humming tunes to new hymns/songs that we will be learning. During this unit the songs (which will be in their binders) are "I'm Gonna Sing", "Jesus Loves Me", and "I will call upon the Lord." We are looking forward to a terrific Church School year!

Jocelyn Fontana and Jen Dixon Church School Superintendents

What Does Sustainable Youth Ministry Look Like?

Purpose - The youth ministry of FPCY invites our youth and their friends into a welcoming and vibrant community that - Surrounds youth with an unconditional love that fosters genuine relationships; - Engages youth in the joys and traditions of the Christian faith; - Energizes youth to extend the love of Christ to the world The proposal Augment the existing Church school program with Middle School and High School strands that meet regularly outside of the Church school program. **Program Content** Thematically driven. FPCY K=5 Church School Mission, Christian education, and fellowship weave seamlessly around specific experiences. The year comprises 6-8 experiences. (Follows the model of the youth experiences from program PCY Middle School **FPCY Middle School** year 2012-2013, which included the Great Supermarket 'Youth Group' Challenge, Sleepout for Homeless Awareness, Youth Midnight Run, Extreme Makeover) People Confirmation Class • Development team. Focus on development & maintenance of Ministry organization Program team. Focus on planning and managing **FPCY High School** activities 'Youth Group' Coordinator(s). Provides consistent week-to-week contact w/ youth; interfaces with volunteers, Development & Program teams. Volunteers. Chaperone, drive, etc.

Page 2

Connecting with God, One Another and the World

#abundance Join the Conversation

All are invited to a small group conversation about the ministry and direction of our church. These conversations will highlight the work of the Youth Design Team and what it means to broaden our church's ministry to engage youth both inside and outside our church, discuss the budget plans for 2014 and the direction of our ministry. Come and listen, ask questions, share your thoughts, enjoy fellowship and delicious desserts.

Meeting dates and times are listed below. To sign up, call Pam Darreff at 914-737-6179 or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space.



Thursday, October 3 7:30pm Tim & Pam Lupfer

Friday, October 4 7:30pm Ruth Deemer Saturday, October 5 7:30pm Debbie & Matt Hager

Friday, October 11 7:30pm Sue & Jonathan Boyd Friday, October 18 7:30pm Marsha Henderson

Saturday, October 19 6:30pm

Sunday, October 20 9:30am at church

more groups to be announced

What's Happening at YPP

Fall is a busy time at YPP! We are exploring apples, pumpkins, the changing leaves and gearing up for Halloween. Thank you to Wilkens Farm for a wonderful tour and pumpkin picking. It was a great day!

YPP is selling car magnets for \$5. Purchasing one not only supports YPP, it helps with advertising our school. Magnets are available from Lisa Eliasson or Kim in the office.

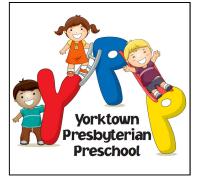
We will have our annual Halloween parades on Wednesday, October 30th at 10:50 am and on Thursday, October 31st at 10:50am and 1:00pm. If you are available, please stop by to see the costumes and cheer us on!

Happy Fall!

THEY SAY THE MOST AMAZING THINGS:

On the 3rd day of school for the 3 year olds, we still had 3 children crying. They were dealing with separation anxiety. While 2 mothers and I were comforting

the crying children, a boy who had 2 older siblings that attended YPP came over to me and said, "If this school is so fun, why is everybody crying?"!!!!!"



Page 3

~ Lisa Eliasson, Director

The Disciple

Practicing Our Faith - Through Bible Study

"About the Bible: **Big Answers to Small Ouestions**"

Book study and discussion Led by Connie Knapp, Jean Post-Winget and Shawn Cribari Sundays, 9:30 am October 6, 13, 20, 27

"Faithful Parenting"

(Grandparents welcome, too!) Led by Rev. Tami Seidel Sundays, 9:30 am through November 24

FOCUS ON FOOD JUSTICE

"Just Eating: Practicing Our Faith at the Table" Led by Rev. Tami Seidel Thursdays, 10:00 am October 3, 10, 17, 24, November 7, 14, 21

"A Biblical Diet: The Ethics of Food Production and Consumption"

Sundays, 9:30 am

November 3, 17 and 24

Food lustice is the theme of our Peace and lustice Weekend, Saturday November 9th and Sunday November 10th. We'll be showing the movie A Place at the Table on Saturday evening at 6 PM in the sanctuary. A panel discussion focusing on

Peace and Justice Weekend -November 9 and 10

Film: "A Place at the Table" on hunger in America Followed by a panel on hunger in Westchester Saturday, November 9, 6:00 pm

Annual Peace and Justice Worship Led by Lori Hylton: **Hunger Action Enabler** of Hudson River Presbytery

Sunday, November 10 Worship Leader at 8:30 am and 10:45 am Guest teacher in Adult Ed at 9:30 am Conversation at "Sermon for Lunch" at 12 Noon

SAVE THE DATE FOR **SPECIAL MINI-RETREAT** Led by Rev. Leslie Mott

(Pastor, Cold Spring Presbyterian Church Saturday, November 16, 9 am - 2 pmLunch provided; Child Care available -(please let us know if you will need child care)



A Place at the Table

hunger here in Westchester County will follow.

Hunger Action Enabler from the Hudson River Presbytery, will be joining us as our guest preacher. In keeping with our tradition of lay leadership of the service, the Mission Commission will be planning the service. Interested in being part of the planning team? Contact Connie Knapp (caknapp@acm.org or 914.671.5114) or Nance Thompson (bsnwahoo@gmail.com).

On Sunday November 10th, Lori Hylton,

Stop by the Amnesty International table on the second Sunday of each month to sign letters as we work together to seek peace and justice in the world.

Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek House in Peekskill is a shelter for 19 homeless men and women, run by Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill (CHOP). On the 4th Saturday of each month, we provide dinner at the Jan Peek House. It is rewarding to share food and conversation with the residents, and it is an important part of our congregation's ministry to the community. If you have never done this before, we'll pair you with someone who has so you can see how it works. New volunteers always welcome. Call Bud Coccodrilli (245-6475) to talk about it. Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 2939 led by Rita Child for the September dinner. October will be The Women's Club via Ruth Deemer. The December 28 meal is still available. If you can volunteer, please give Bud a call.

Noontime Meal

FPCY's Noontime Meal preparers will mobilize again on October 8 at Peekskill Presbyterian Church. We invite any of you to consider one or two hours of volunteer work per month on the Tuesday prior to the second Wednesday. This is a rewarding task and many hands make the work light and fun. Call Squeegee Mills (845-621-3178) or Ken Sherman (914-737-8294) for details.

Page 4

loin a studv group!

Connecting with God, One Another and the World

Who: ANY & ALL Junior and Senior High youth Never come before? Now's the perfect time to start!

When: October 5, 3-5pm

Where: The Youth Room It's time get this room in shape. Come in your rattiest clothes and be prepared to paint, organize, *everything!*

Plan ahead! The next meeting is October 20, 3-5 pm

Planned Giving and Our Church

What is "planned giving"? It is a decision now to make a gift in the future. The most common legal device for Planned Giving is a will (a bequest), but there are several other ways of conveying a Planned Gift, such as appreciated securities, real estate, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, or charitable trusts. If we have attended a college or university, or if we have paid for our children to attend one, we are probably already very familiar with those institutions' appeals for Planned Gifts. This reflects the increased attention being paid by many US charitable organizations to the value and importance of Planned Gifts.

Churches have been a bit slower As our approach for Planned to embrace this concept, but we are now catching up, because the concept of Planned Giving can be very helpful for the Church and its mission.

Our Session has approved the Stewardship Commission's goal of developing an approach to Planned Giving for our church. We are moving very deliberately and methodically, and we aim to present an overall plan at the congregation's Annual Meeting in 2014. For now, we just want to make the congregation aware of the concept, to plant the initial seed about planning now for a gift in the future to help the mission of our Church.

Giving develops, there will be many opportunities for members to ask questions and to comment on how best to use this method of giving for the benefit of our Church, so please do not hesitate to contact me (as the co-chair of the Stewardship Commission; contact information, below), or to contact our pastors, elders, or deacons about this important concept.

For the Stewardship Commission cell: 914-815-1573 e-mail: ttlupfer@netbox.com

control, he is best known for his interpretation of Liszt as well as other classical and modern composers.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear this gifted artist on our newly re-furbished piano!

Upcoming concerts for the 2013/14 season include: December 7th at 8pm (Saturday evening) Annual Christmas Concert February 8th at 8pm (Saturday evening) Candlelight, Cello, and Champagne April 26th (Saturday evening) Annual Spring Concert May 31st (Saturday evening) An Evening of Pops and Cabaret

The First Presbyterian Concert Series is supported by the generous donations of people like YOU! You too, can be a Concert Series Patron by making a gift of \$50 or more to the 2013-2014 Concert series either by check or e/transfer.

Concert Series 2013-2014

The 13th FPC Concert Series will open on Sunday, October 6th at 4:30 pm with a performance by internationally acclaimed pianist Mykola Suk. Ukrainian-American Suk gained recognition as the winner of the First Prize and Gold Medal at the 1971 International Liszt-Bartok competition in Budapest, and his career has spanned four continents, performing in the most prestigious venues from the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory to Carnegie Hall in New York. Mr Suk is available as the opening performance of our Concert Series because of his long friendship with Simona, and because his concert tour brings him to our New York area immediately before leaving on a European concert tour the next morning.

Mr. Suk has appeared as a soloist with numerous leading orchestras and and has collaborated artistically with the world's outstanding conductors. Before coming to the United States, he served as professor of Piano at the Kiev State Conservatory and Moscow State Conservatory. He has given master classes at many festivals and music schools around the world. The European Piano Teacher's Journal wrote that he is "surely the most towering and volcanic talent to have come out of Russia since Anton Rubenstein". Renown for his power, passion, poetry, and exquisite keyboard

Thank you. Tim Lupfer, Elder





Page 5

Page 6



Please remember in your prayers: Kathy Anderson Marie Anderson Peg Bertsch Deanna Collins Carol Cornish Lisa Crockett Allan Damon Betty Dexter Gertrude Dineen Natalie Dineen Louise Fang Evelyn & Lynn Fischer Brian Froehlich Melissa Gilbert Phillip Gresh Lisa Gunther Mary Hamblen Ken Hardy Craig & Eleanor Hibben Ruth Hickey Marie Hodgkinson Nellie Keller Carvl Kerber Bonnie Konnerth lim Kutter Janice Linehan Ruth Linehan Jim Lunday Florence Malcolmson Janet Mazzaroppi Dave Monk Janet Nelson Kyle Nelson Sue Palicz Dixie Robinson Ruth Selman Kim Sherman **Delia Siemers** Cameron Spence Kathy Swenson Cal Weber Teddy Wilson Kathryn Winget

Knitting Groups

Knit Togethers meet next on October 14 & 28 and November 11 & 25

FAITH IN ACTION. If you knit or crochet: SAY YES! BE CREATIVE! Make a baby blanket. Make a lap blanket. Make children's hats and mittens. Easy patterns are available from the Knit Togethers. Our meetings are held on 2nd & 4th Mondays, 10 to 11:30am in Lounge 15. All who knit and crochet are welcome. Join us in the joy of creating and giving to others in the community. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

Our ANNUAL AMAZING "SHOW AND TELL" will be Sunday, NOVEMBER 3, from 9:30am to 12:30pm in the Gathering Space. Come see the beautiful hand-knit items made for giving to community groups. You will be AMAZED!

Prayer Shawl Group meets on the following Wednesday mornings: October 23 at 10:30 and November 6 at 9:30. Please join us!

New in the Church Library

"This is a daring and urgent book" writes the New York Times about *My Bright Abyss; Meditation of a Modern Believer* (248 W). The poet Christian Wiman chronicles his return to Christian belief after a cancer diagnosis in this collection of essays. With both honesty and humility, he examines how life feels when one is up against death. He reflects on illness and love, but also on childhood and church-going and doubt, trying to make sense of both what he believes and what, often, deters him from believing.

My God my bright abyss Into which all my longing will not go Once more I come to the edge of all I know And believing nothing believe in this.

Carol Jensen, Church Librarian

The Ministry of the Deacons

During the summer months, the Deacons were busy with our various ministries. The needs of our church members and the community do not take a vacation just because the weather is warm and the fish are biting!

The food pantry is a constant. Although some families do not have the same need during the summer when seasonal work is available, others fill in the gaps, and we wonder if some of the food pantries in the area. have lost their funding. We are grateful to everyone who helps to keep ours able to provide where there is such need.

The most exciting aspect of the end of summer is our mission to provide school supplies to the children of the food pantry clients. The amount of excitement and joy that is expressed by these young scholars is the greatest reward that any of us could ask. They hug the kits and skip as they leave, excitedly chattering about new teachers and new classes. Our gifts change attitudes, and that, along with education, is the key to a better community. Even the tweens were excited about receiving the supplies donated so generously by our congregation. We distributed a total of 174 school kits (70 for grades 3-5 and 60 for grades K -2) as well as 71 bags, donated by you, of 'basic essentials" for older children. They thank you!

Yours in faith, Angelyn Forbes-Freeze for the Deacons

Senior Lunch Bunch News

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Wednesday, October 16th at 12 noon. This month we will do an "Italian" theme. Dust off the old and bring out the new recipes and lets have a feast! If you don't do Italian, anything will do. Come, bring a dish or dessert to share, meet new friends or get reacquainted with old and have a great time!

November will be a catered Thanksgiving Feast and more information will be in the next issue.

In December we are going to the Westchester Dinner Theatre. There are 30 people signed up to go. The final payment of \$27 is due to Pat Prauda by October 31st. Checks should be made out to Patricia Prauda.

We hope you will join us for lunch! Questions? Please call Pat Prauda at 737-4674.

Food Pantry "Item of the Month"

~ Hearty Soups ~

Next Dates: October 12 & 26 9 to 11am

We need volunteers to load bags from 8-9 am on the pantry days.

Sunday Morning...Hands-On Helping!

USHERS are always needed on a Sunday morning for both 8:30am and 10:45am Services. Please sign up on the Usher Board at the bottom of the ramp in the Gathering Space. You can always contact Terri Froehlich at 528-0881 or Pat Prauda at 737-4674. We will walk you through it and pair you up with someone who has served before. It is a good way to meet new people. Families are welcome! **COFFEE HOUR** volunteers always welcome! Please see Pat Prauda or Ellen de Jong to volunteer!

Blessing of the Animals and Communion Brunch

On Sunday, October 6 we'll be having our third annual Blessing of the Animals at 2pm. This meaningful and fun-filled event is open to the whole community. Please bring your pet to the gravel parking lot. Leashes/Carriers/Cages please! There will be a special blessing and some fun treats for our furry friends.

October 6 is also our Communion Brunch. We would like to have a special brunch/coffee hour following each service (not just 10:45, as in the past). Please bring a dish to share for our fellowship time together. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Operations Update

We continue to make progress in keeping our facilities maintained and improved. Our most recent projects include:

- Removal of the built-in A/C units in the Pastor's & Treasurer's offices. A big Thank You to Skip Mahncke and Bill Friscia for their help to me in completing this project.

- A significant rehab of the Portico in front of the Sanctuary has been completed. Here, my shout -out goes to Bud Coccodrilli for a really significant effort in breaking out the old cracked mortar between the bluestone slabs and the granite steps and then putting in new mortar and sponging off the excess. Uneven areas were smoothed out to eliminate trip hazards. The wrought iron railings have been resealed with hydraulic cement so they are now very stable. This was an eyesore that really needed attention. I am hoping everyone who sees the finished project likes what they see.

- The south wall of the Youth Room has been completely re-

done. Thanks to Jose for a superb job in priming, spackling and sanding the wall. The young people of our Youth Group can now decorate the wall to their liking. This follow-on work will be under the supervision of Jack Shaughnessy.

- Operations' has approved the

installation of new carpeting for the Youth Room. The carpeting will be installed after all painting is complete.

- Also, approved is a significant rehabilitation of the kitchen floor. The existing linoleum is very old and worn. It is impossible to keep looking good. The new floor will be vinyl tile with new cove molding throughout. This will be a great addition to an

otherwise excellent room.

- All of the lines in the driveways and parking lots have been restriped. This was a big task, but one that helps to keep order for driving lanes, one-way traffic and parking spaces.

- We will soon be adding speaker wires which will go from the audio console in the Sanctuary to & Facilities Coordinator

the nursery and kitchen. This will soon allow people who are serving in those spaces to be aware of progress of services in the Sanctuary. We hope to add the actual powered speaker units in late October.

- A very big Thank You is sent out to several people who have helped with the weeding chores around our property. These people include: Nancy Caswell, Lucas Eliasson, Ed de Jong, Craig Hibben and me. There is a lot more weeding needed. Anyone who wants to help need only pick a spot and weed it. Leave the weeds in a pile and I will pick them up and take them to Yorktown Recycling. Thanks in advance to everyone who will help with this work!

Thanks to all for helping us to keep things in good shape and for volunteering when we call for assistance. Everyone's effort is very much appreciated!

Dick Seymour Chair of Operations

Clean-Up Day October 5 Starting at 8:30am

Come and join as we clean up inside and outside. Bring any tools you may need for your tasks.

Connecting with God, One Another and the World





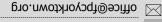
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The Disciple

OCTOBER 2013

Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 office@fpcyorktown.org www.FPCYorktown.org <u>Parish Associate</u> Rev. Tami Seidel 914-245-2186 Rev. Chip Low Office Hours: Pastor



@fpcyorktown

Гасероок.com/fpcyorktown

OCTOBER				3 Study - 10am	4	5 Clean-Up Day 3-5 Extreme Makeover Youth Room
 6 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 2pm Blessing of the Animals 4:30pm Concert :Mikola Suk 	7 (Note: office closed this week) Church School 7pm	8 Noontime Meal Prep - 2:30pm at Peekskill Pres. Church 7:30pm - Mission Worship	9	10 Study - 10am Rehearsals: 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	11	12 Food Pantry 9-11am
 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12 Commission Chairs 	14 Office Closed Knit Togethers 10am YPP Board 7:30pm	15 Operations: 7:30pm	16 Senior Lunch Bunch 12pm in Fellowship Hall Adult Ed Mtg at 7:30pm	17 Study - 10am Rehearsals: 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	18	19
 20 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 3pm Extreme Makeover Youth Room 4:30pm Confirmation 	21 Education: 7:30pm	22 Communications: 7:30pm	23 Prayer Shawl 10:30am	24 Study - 10am 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	25	26 Food Pantry 9-11am Jan Peek Meal Served
 27 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 12pm Deacon Meeting 4:30pm Confirmation 	28 Knit Togethers I0am	29	30	31 Study - 10am Rehearsals: 6:30pm - Bells		