

**DATES TO NOTE:**

**Sunday, January 15th,  
4:00pm**  
MLK, Jr. Memorial Service  
Antioch Baptist Church  
Bedford Hills

**Sunday, January 22**  
Officer Installation  
& Ordination,  
Mission Trip Info Meeting

**Friday—Saturday  
January 27-28**  
Leadership Retreat

**Sunday, February 5**  
Souper Bowl of Caring,  
Annual Meeting &  
Congregational Brunch

The Disciple

**A New Year brings new leadership and  
new opportunities for ministry and mission!**

**Happy New Year! Happy 2017!**

January always feels like such a transitional month. We're coming down off the Christmas holiday high and hustle and bustle. We're facing 2-3 months of wintry weather. We're learning to write a new date on our checks and correspondence. We're taking stock of our lives as one year ends and a new one starts. As we get back into our daily and weekly routines, we're wondering what the future holds.

This is certainly true here at church, too. During this season of Epiphany, when God's Light is revealed to the whole world, we are all invited to live into our baptismal identity as children of God and Jesus' disciples. We ordain and install our new elders and deacons on January 22nd. We review 2016 as we write and compile our annual reports and prepare for the annual congregational meeting and brunch on February 5th. The leadership of the church spends a weekend on retreat together discerning God's vision and direction for our church. We look back and we look forward, as we live into the present as God's people here at FPCY.

We'd like to say a special word of thanks to the outgoing elders and deacons who have served us so faithfully over the past 3 years: Elders Donna Gresh, Beth Gruber, Jessica Mayes, Eugene McGrath, David Ramage, Ian Spence, Cathy Talbot and youth elder, Megan Switzer; and Deacons Carl Anderson, Cynthia Fritz, Chuck Radke and Jocelyn Ramage. Thanks also to elder Debbie Bernardini, youth elder Justin Leftwich, deacon Carol Thorne-Gaetani and



youth deacons Ellen Gruber and Max Tieche, who have graciously agreed to stay on and serve an extra few months or year to help fill vacant terms and adjust to the new youth officer calendar. We are so grateful for your leadership and ministry in our midst!

In this Epiphany season of light and new beginnings, how and where is God calling you to follow the star, to serve the Light of the World? As we pack up decorations and put away our Christmas presents, what gifts do we offer the Christ child throughout the year? As we hear Jesus calling us, "Follow me," how will we grow in our relationship with God and practice our faith, not just at church, but in our daily lives?

As we begin this new year together, let us look back at 2016 with thanksgiving, look forward to 2017 with hope, and live in the everpresent light of Christ, sharing that light with the world.

See you in church,

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on  
Sunday, February 5, 2017,  
at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall:**

to elect one Ruling Elder, class of 2019;  
to elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee;  
to review and approve the Co-pastors Terms of Call,  
to receive the Annual Reports, including the report of the Auditors;  
and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the Meeting.



*FPCY Annual Congregational Meeting  
and Potluck Brunch  
Sunday, February 5 at 12:00 Noon  
Please bring a dish to share.\**

\* Consider bringing a vegetarian or vegan dish;  
and if you do,  
please label it so vegetarians and vegans among us  
know they can indulge.

## Church Leadership Retreat

The leadership retreat will convene at Holmes on January 27 at 6:00pm and will continue through Saturday at 3:00pm.

If you are on the leadership list below and haven't yet registered, be sure to log-on to [myfpcy.org](http://myfpcy.org) and click on "events" to sign-up. See Chip or Tami

## 2017 LEADERSHIP

Chip Low and Tami Seidel, Co-Pastors  
Simona Frenkel, Organist & Choir Director  
Stephanie Hare, Director of Youth Ministries  
Lisa Flanagan, Office Manager  
Jose Sandoval, Custodian  
Liza Placido & Michele Mosca, Church School Superintendents  
Tom Travis, Gordon Braudaway, Beth Gruber, Treasurers

## THE SESSION

### Class of 2017

Debbie Bernardini  
Bruce Johnson  
Kirk Larsen  
Suzy Rishel  
Linda Swift  
Kathy Winsted

Justin Leftwich  
(01/01/17 thru 08/31/17)

### Class of 2018

Alyssa Bauer  
Karen Gerth  
Heidi Haring  
Christie Herman  
Fred Mintzer  
Lynda Spring

TJ Chin (09/01/17 thru 08/31/18)  
Kiera Wax (01/01/17 thru 08/31/18)

### Class of 2019

Cheryl Burns  
Ellen Miles  
Squeegee Mills  
Viny Wallace  
John Winget

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway  
Moderators: Chip Low, Tami Seidel

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### Class of 2017

Bud Coccodrilli  
Carol Thorne-Gaetani  
Debbie Hager  
Marianna Sherman

Ellen Gruber  
(01/01/17 thru 08/31/17)  
Max Tieche  
(01/01/17 thru 08/31/17)

### Class of 2018

Judy Chessa  
Terri Froehlich  
Sue Nelson  
Bill Winsted

Michael Blaney  
(09/01/17 thru 08/31/18)  
Sophie Low  
(09/01/17 thru 08/31/18)

### Class of 2019

Katharine Frase  
Rose Johnson  
Martin Scatola  
Tony Tomicich



## Hear ye! Hear ye! It's time to get excited about Summer Mission trips!

The Mission Commission has two very exciting opportunities that we want to tell you about, so come to an informational meeting at noon on January 22nd!

**July 15 - 22**, we'll be sending a group to Maryland for a week to work with The Center, a ministry of the Presbytery of Baltimore. We will be partnered with the First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis to work on a summer literacy program for 2nd graders from under-served communities. We will also spend time with staff of the Center to reflect on shared experiences through the lenses of Christian faith and social change. This trip is open to adults and youth who are entering 10th grade and up (rising 9th graders may also participate if a parent or guardian is also going on the trip).

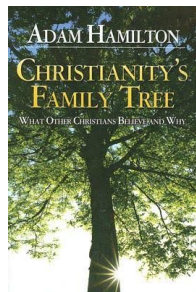
And **July 29 - August 6** marks our return to the Dominican Republic with Bridges to Community. This year, we'll travel to the village of Caimonial to work in partnership with the community to repair houses. Bridges works to empower communities adversely affected by poverty, deforestation, and high emigration rates on agricultural, health, education and youth programs, helping residents to make their communities better places to live and thrive. This trip is open to adults and youth who are entering 11th grade and up.

\*If you're thinking about the DR trip, be sure to check your passport and make sure that it is valid through the end of 2017!

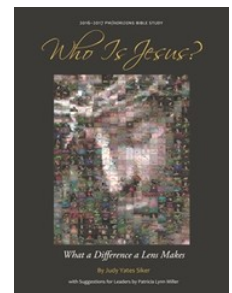
So take a look at your summer calendar now and come to the info meeting on the 22nd!

Bring your interest, bring your questions! (Can't wait to ask? Contact Steph Hare 914-826-1227 or youth@fpcyorktown.org)

## Adult Education Commission

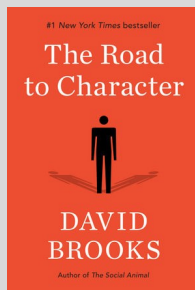


In January our Sunday morning focus will be on **Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why**, a book and DVD by Adam Hamilton. Join us as you are able as we study what Christians believe in each of eight traditions: Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism and Methodism. Our January study will begin on Sunday, January 8 and end on February 26, just in time for Lent! (Ash Wednesday falls on March 1 this coming year.)



The Women's Circle will continue to meet on the first Wednesday morning of each month, from 10:30 until noon. The group will be led by Tami and will follow the Horizons curriculum, **Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes**. All women are welcome to attend one or more of these meetings. You don't have to attend every session to get a lot out of the study!

## New in the Church Library:



David Brooks, a columnist for the New York Times Op Ed page, has recently mused as much about philosophy as politics. In his latest book, **The Road to Character** (170 B), he asserts that our market-driven society rewards outer success at the expense of the inner soul. He challenges us to re-balance the scales between our "resume virtues" – achieving wealth, fame, and stature – and our "eulogy virtues" that exist at the core of our being: kindness, bravery, honesty, and especially humility. The central chapters are profiles of exemplary figures from history, such as Dorothy Day, George Eliot, and Saint Augustine. The book ends with his "humility code," specific guidelines for gaining maturity and wisdom – surely something we can all benefit from!

-Carol Jensen, Church Librarian

## Church School “Chalkboard”

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We’ve had a delightful Advent and Christmas season at Sunday School. The children did a beautiful job of decorating the tree in Fellowship Hall, and we spent December learning about the meaning of Advent (try asking your child what “Emmanuel” means) and celebrating Jesus’ birth.

As we move into 2017, it is a good time to remember with your child some of the lessons that we have learned so far in Sunday School, and to think about how to apply those lessons in the year to come by discussing ways that we can:

- Listen to and obey God like Noah
- Practice generosity like the poor widow
- Say “thank you” like the healed leper
- Keep the spirit of Advent and Christmas in our hearts year-round.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** As part of FPCY’s new Child Safety Policy (which you can read online at <http://fpcyorktown.org/wp-content/uploads/Child-Safety-Policy.pdf>), starting in January 2017, we must ask all parents and guardians of children in the Preschool-4th Grade



Sunday School classes to sign your children in and out of Sunday School each week. We will have sign-in sheets available at the entrances to the sanctuary before Gathering Time; please do not drop off your children without signing them in. Children may be signed out from Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement this new policy, which is intended to ensure the safety of all children in our care. Please don’t hesitate to contact a pastor or Sunday School co-superintendent if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes for a happy 2017, filled with love and learning!

Peace,  
Michele Mosca and Jessica Mayes  
*Sunday School Superintendents*

## FPCY YOUTH

**Happy New Year one and all!** 2017 is here and we're going to make sure that it is full of love, kindness and fun. We already have some fun plans on the way for Youth Group!

On **January 22**, we are going to make fleece scarves with the help of Norean Radke. The scarves will be distributed to folks who are experiencing homelessness by our Confirmation Class in February. In addition to those activities, we'll also be working on our upcycled t-shirt rug, so bring in your old t-shirts. The Middle School group will continue working on a skit that we'll be putting on during worship in the near future. We could use a few more actors, so if you want to be a part of it (even a small part) come to Youth Group in January!

Looking ahead to February, we'll meet on Sunday, **February 12th** (at 4:30 and 6). Then on Tuesday, **February 21**, join us for ice skating at Bear Mountain! We'll meet at the church at 11 am to carpool over to Bear Mountain (in case of inclement weather, we'll go on Sunday the 26th, meeting at 3 pm). More details will follow, but make sure to mark your calendar! Drivers will be needed.

And another thing to put on your calendar now: the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on **February 28th**. The Confirmation Class will be flipping the 'cakes and sausage in the kitchen and we'll have jobs available for all Youth who want to help out as greeters and servers.

Questions? Call, text, or email Steph: 914-826-1227, [youth@fpcyorktown.org](mailto:youth@fpcyorktown.org)

**Thanks for a great 2016! Here's to an awesome 2017!**



### Save the Dates

#### January 22

Middle School Youth  
4:30 – 6 pm

High School Youth  
6 – 7:30 pm

#### February 12

Middle School Youth  
4:30 – 6 pm

High School Youth  
6 – 7:30 pm

#### February 21

Ice Skating at Bear Mountain  
Meet at FPCY @ 11:00am

#### February 28

Pancake Supper



## Knitting Groups

**The Knit Togethers** will meet on January 9 & 23 and February 13 & 27. In December we distributed 215 items to the Deacon's Mitten Tree, to the Dominican Sisters Family Health Service, to the Field Home, to Somers Manor Nursing Center, and to the YWCA of White Plains.

Many thanks to special people who helped our mission:

- Mary Erhardt of Canandaigua, NY, for 30 beautiful hats, delivered by Carol Annacone.
- Karen Fang and the knitters of NYC's Brick Presbyterian Church for lap blankets, arranged by Louise Fang.
- Nancy Caswell for a large yarn donation.
- All the Knit Together knitters and crocheters.
- Nancy Paskin and Mable Seymour who knit at home.

All who knit or crochet are welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30am in the Lounge/Rm 15. Contacts: Norean Radke (962-4370 or radke30@msn.com) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

**Prayer Shawl Group** will meet next on January 18 at 10:30am. Anyone who would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. In addition to the regular knitters who come on Wednesdays, we have at least seven off site knitters. Any questions please call Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.



Please join the Lunch Bunch on **Wednesday, January 18th** for a Pot Luck lunch. Bring a dish to share and enjoy good food and conversation.

On **Wednesday, February 15th**, we will feature a Soup and Sandwich lunch — more information on that soon.

Both months will be in the Fellowship Hall at Noon. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for lunch.

## Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek House is a shelter for people experiencing homelessness including several veterans. They depend on a meal from our congregation on the 4th Saturday of each month. If you would be interested in preparing a meal, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway across from Fellowship Hall.

If you have someone to partner with, that is great, but if not, I will get someone to work with you.

We would like to thank Ruth Deemer and Judy and John Chessa for volunteering for the December meal which fell on Christmas Eve.

~Pat Prauda, 737-4674 or e-mail [ppladyofscotland@aol.com](mailto:ppladyofscotland@aol.com)



## Noontime Meal

Noontime Meal is prepared on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Peekskill Presbyterian Church kitchen by several members and friends of this congregation. These meals are then taken to the Salvation Army in Peekskill to help feed those experiencing homelessness. The next date is February the 7th. Need more information? Call Pat Prauda at 737-4674.

We are also looking for folks to make dessert for Noontime Meal, a special thanks to Ally Child and Margaret Gruber for preparing the desserts in December and to the Youth Group for helping in January. Anyone interested in providing desserts please see Pat Prauda. It could be cookies, cupcakes, cake, pudding or pies. We feed 50 people each month, so if you get a friend or two to help it makes it easier and more fun!

Many hands make light work, so if you can scrub carrots, potatoes, chop ham or celery, we can use you.

We meet at the Peekskill Presbyterian church (705 South Street, Peekskill—use the kitchen entrance off of Washington St), and in just 1-1.5 hours prepare a meal that the Salvation Army will serve to nearly 50 people the following day.

## Deacons' Corner

## Gentle Shepard, Kind and True

by Hal H. Hopson

**Refrain:**

Gentle Shepard, kind and true,  
cares for all, not just a few.  
He seeks the lamb that's lost and cold,  
and brings it back within the fold

V.2 Now I sing this happy song,  
I sing it loud, I sing it strong;  
the God who made the land and sea,  
loves a little child like me.

**Refrain**

V.1 Sheep were in the fields of green,  
Yes, ninety nine Luke said were seen,  
but on that day the news went round,  
one small sheep could not be found.

**Refrain.**

V.3 Now I sing this happy song,  
I sing it loud, I sing it strong;  
the God who made all things it's true,  
Loves each one including YOU!

**Refrain**

The song above was specifically written for a children's choir and is based on Scripture from Luke 15:3-7 in which Jesus illustrates God's love for each one of us with a story about a shepherd who has lost one small sheep out of his herd of ninety-nine sheep. Interestingly, it comes from a time when Jesus was talking with tax collectors and other notorious sinners! This particular group of people were outcasts in their society and were therefore often drawn to Jesus, the teacher and healer, to listen to him teach about God's Kingdom. Funny, isn't it?! There were probably no children there at all at the time!!

We all know Jesus used parables regularly and often when he taught. He used this method to encourage and move his listeners to think and work their way from the very familiar known to a new way of seeing as well as a deeper understanding of what God's Kingdom is really all about. And, as we all know, the greatest truths are really very simple actually. Simple enough for children to understand. And funny enough, children often understand these truths more quickly and easily than we adults.

What Jesus taught – over and over- are two simple truths: The fatherhood of God as the Creator of all AND the brotherhood of all mankind. That means each and everyone of us! We are all part of this brotherhood and sisterhood – not just the special people, not just the rich and famous ones, not just the popular or attractive ones – EVERYBODY! In God's eyes we each count – we each have equal worth – we are each loved and cherished by God. What follows then, no matter what we call ourselves

or what religious or political, racial, financial or other orientation you come from, ... what follows then is to obey Jesus' command that we love one another as He has loved each one of us.

Naturally, loving everybody is not easy to do. It takes a decision, a change in perspective, a radical paradigm shift, a bolt of lightning or a dream like our friend "Scrooge" had on Christmas Eve. Whatever it takes, it is something we are each invited by God to do, asked by God to do and commanded by God to do. The only choice we have is to decide WHEN we do it.

The Deacons at our Church have been overwhelmed this past December with the outpouring of support for their ministries – we had the most wonderful events this past month in which we demonstrated our genuine love for each one of God's children through our many activities. We had the early December giving Sunday in which you gave gifts and offerings for distribution throughout our church community and nearby areas.

Carl Anderson reported that 860 toys were distributed to 122 client families including 400 children. Many stores and organizations in the area chipped in donuts, bagels and cookies which were served during the celebration and distribution.

Heidi Haring brought dozens of age appropriate gifts and toys to the Bedford Prison so the mothers incarcerated there could have something to give to their children when they came to see them for their holiday visits. The donations were greatly appreciated by these Moms who would otherwise not have anything to give their children for Christmas.

Our lovely "Knit Together" ladies knitted beautiful hats and mittens all year for the "Hat & Mitten Tree." Several hundred more hats, scarves and mittens were made and donated by other church members AND also some very

**Food Pantry  
Item-of-the-Month**

**Canned Fruit**

Next Dates:  
January 14 & 28  
February 11 & 25  
9 to 11am



special non-member friends who live in the area and support our church pantry each year. These items were to be joyfully given to and accepted by our food pantry clients. This year, however, a snowfall of many inches greatly affected attendance at the Food Pantry right before Christmas. Attendance by clients and volunteers was much lower than usual. Bud Cocco-drilli and his team had to scramble to find storage for dozens and dozens of fresh hams that will now be given away early in January instead along with all the beautiful hats, scarves and mittens.

Our scribe, Terri Froehlich, sends out dozens and dozens of greeting cards to the sick, the shut-ins and otherwise hurting members and friends of our congregation. Terri does this not only for Christmas but throughout the year.

We are thankful for all of the loving work of our Deacons. We also thank you all for caring. We ask you to keep caring and demonstrating your love by making donations to our Deacons' Fund. We count on your money. We need your support. Our community needs your support. We can't do it without you. Please use the offering envelope in your offering box, our on-line giving, or just a plain envelope marked "Deacons Fund" to make your gift and help us out. Our church is a beacon of light in a sometimes dark and confused world. Our Love for God and all of his Children shines brightly and is like an enormous lighthouse shining and lighting the way for others to come and find that they, too, are part of God's family and worthy of His love. We are always looking and longing to find lost sheep. Help us show them that "The God who made all things, it's true, loves each one including YOU."

May God's love and Peace bless you now and into this New Year – 2017!! Amen & Amen !

~Carol Thorne-Gaetani for the Deacons



### Souper Bowl of Caring — Sunday, February 5, 2017

The Souper Bowl of Caring is the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. This unique, youth-led movement of caring is transforming the nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving.

**On February 5th, we will participate in this event.  
Please bring cans of soup or donations  
to support our Food Pantry.**

First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown  
2880 Crompond Road  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Non-Profit Organization  
Bulk Rate U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
Permit No. 20

# The Disciple

January 2017

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00

Co-Pastors

Rev. Chip Low

Rev. Tami Seidel



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



office@fpcyorktown.org

January/February				12	13	14
				10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir		9am Food Pantry
<b>15</b> 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 4:00pm MLK, Jr. Memorial Service @Antioch Baptist in Bedford Hills	16 <i>office closed</i>  7:30pm Worship Design Comm.	17 9:30am Disciple 4  7:30pm Operations & Mission	18 9:00am Stewardship 10:30am Prayer Shawl 12pm Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Disciple 4	19 10:00am Adult Bible Study  6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir	20	21
<b>22</b> <i>Officer Ordination/Installation</i> 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Mission Trip Info Meeting Youth Bells 4:30pm MS Youth Group 6:00pm HS Youth Group	23 10am Knit Togethers	24 9:30am Disciple 4  7:30pm Education & Communications	25 7:00pm Disciple 4 7:30pm Budget & Finance	26 10:00am Adult Bible Study  6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir	27 <i>Leadership Retreat @ Holmes 6:00pm</i>	28 9am Food Pantry  <i>Leadership Retreat @ Holmes</i>
29 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells	30	31 9:30am Disciple 4  7:30pm Adult Ed Comm.	1 9:30am Prayer Shawl 10:30am Women's Circle 7:00pm Disciple 4	2 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir	3	4
<b>5</b> <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Annual Meeting & Brunch Youth Bells	6	7 9:30am Disciple 4  7:30pm Session	8 7:00pm Disciple 4	9 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Bells 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir	10	11 9am Food Pantry