



Bethany Presbyterian Church

DIVERSE PEOPLE UNITED BY GOD'S LOVE IN EVERYDAY LIFE
Worship Sundays 10am Give Gift\$

The Rev. Dr. James B. Rea, Jr., Pastor (631) 423-6359

Facebook: Bethany Presbyterian Church Huntington

BETHANY ARCHIVES - 2015

JAN 24 - Pastor Rea transfers Moderator office

Jan 31 - Scholarship Blood Drive

Feb 1 - BPC celebrates 6 years

Feb 7 - Flapjack Fundraiser

Feb 8 - Annual Congregational Meeting

Lent - He will raise you up

Feb 21 - Youth help at HIHI

Mar 6 - HIHI invites guests to come inside

Mar 29 - Apr 5 Holy Week Dramas

MICAH Meals

The Open Door newsletter

Food Pantry - monthly support

Nov 26 - Deacon Holiday Meal delivery

Dec 13 - 11th Annual Living Nativity

Bethany Memorial Bench plan

PASTOR REA TRANSFERS MODERATOR OFFICE



Last year - 2014 - was a special year for Bethany as we celebrated Pastor Rea's appointment as Moderator for 2014 of the Presbytery of Long Island. So quickly, a year has passed since our church was packed with standing room only to watch our spiritual leader assume this office. His leadership role officially ended on December 31, 2014. For 2015, Pastor Rea has one more year of service to the Presbytery as Moderator of the Shepherding Council; however, he will ceremonially pass the role of 'Moderator of the Presbytery' to Reverend Jeff Prey on January 24. In our Photo Gallery, see pictures of the 2014 event when Pastor Rea accepted his role.

SCHOLARSHIP BLOOD DRIVE



Thanks for your help to collect 37 pints. Almost 60 people saw our signs, read our fliers, checked our facebook and website page, came out to donate... and helped one bright student receive a scholarship at our annual Blood Drive!

FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER



Thank you to all the wonderful guests and volunteers who helped make Bethany's February 7th [Flapjack Fundraiser](#) so successful. Guests, friends and family had a delicious breakfast, won door prizes and raffles, and helped us raise money for the church generator.

BPC WEBSITE CELEBRATES 6 YEARS



February 7th marked the 6-Year Anniversary of our Bethany website. For your next event, consider including the website while you're in the planning phase - that way, there'll be enough time to get your information on the site and have it be seen before your event happens. Send brief details or a short bulleted list to ANDRIENNE7@gmail.com. In six years, a lot changed - new look, new features - and many more visitors! Specifically, in 2014:

- Total visits increased by 33% to 21,400 - 5258 more than in 2013!
- Total pages viewed increased by 35% to 33,865 - 8823 more than in 2013!

2015 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



All members were invited to hear reports from the Pastor, Session, Deacons, Treasurer, and Committee leaders. There was ample time to ask questions about Bethany, the Presbytery, and the Presbyterian Church. Booklets for 2015 include complete details and reports. Thank you to members who attended and made time for this important meeting to learn more about what happened - and is happening - at Bethany. The meeting agenda included the election of new church officers, as members of Session and Board of Deacons. The Pastor's call was unanimously renewed.

SEASON OF LENT - HE WILL RAISE YOU UP



We start the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday Communion Worship. Let Bethany help you start your Lenten journey and mark the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes. They remind us that we are created from dust and to dust we shall return. During these 40 days and nights, remember that God is with you. He will raise you up when you don't have strength to raise yourself. Learn more about Lent and what it means to Presbyterians.

YOUTH HELP AT HIHI – HUNTINGTON INTERFAITH HOMELESS INITIATIVE



February 21

Bethany's youth take an active role in community outreach and mission events! And they were out in full force at our 2014 HIHI night. They cooked, they served, they cleaned - all with joyous smiles and the energetic enthusiasm that comes with youth. Bethany is one of the more than twenty houses of worship that participate in HIHI - providing respite for the homeless during the winter months. Use links above to learn about more opportunities for Christian education at Bethany.

HIHI INVITES GUESTS TO COME INSIDE

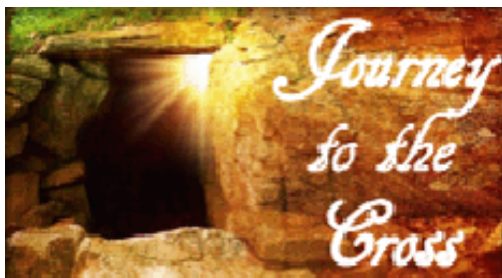


Unbelievably, Bethany's in the midst of the 11th year of HIHI!

Again on March 6, Bethany welcomed guests to come inside for dinner, snacks, dessert, a few movies, overnight supervision, breakfast and lunch. HIHI helps bring homeless individuals out of the cold and into a warm church overnight. Sponsored by the Family Service League, HIHI - Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative - is one of several programs available for Housing and Homeless Services. Bethany Presbyterian Church is one of the more than 20 houses of worship that participate in HIHI, providing respite for the homeless during the winter months. Read about our rich history with this important initiative in our Archives - in 2011, the Times of Huntington honored volunteers as 'People of the year in Religion'! See several albums in our Photos. HIHI: Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative - it's another way for YOU and

Bethany to help fight hunger in our community. For more information about HIHI events, contact Ed Wong or Lanzel Powell.

HOLY WEEK DRAMAS | JOURNEY TO THE CROSS



We 're-live' Holy Week from Palm Sunday on March 29 through Easter Sunday on April 5 - as we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord. The amazing re-enactment of the last week of Jesus' life - through live performances and worship - provides an experience like no other! "Thank You!!! Thank You!!! Thank You!!!" There are no words adequate enough to express appreciation for the Bethany members that helped with and participated in the Holy Week Dramas. Each performer was superb in portraying scripture for our Holy Week services - and there's been nothing but positive feedback! (If you missed the 'Holy Week' dramas, be sure to join us for the Christmas' drama.) It wasn't an easy week - especially on Saturday with the preparation of the Deacon Easter Meals and the Flowering of the Cross. The baskets of flowers were absolutely beautiful and on Easter Sunday, we had enough flowers to completely cover the cross. What was once a symbol of

the torturous crucifixion from the 'Good Friday' drama, was transformed into a glorious symbol of life, of beauty, and of His resurrection. It was simply breathtaking! We enrich our worship services with these dramas by depicting scripture and making events that happened over 2000 years ago come alive! We continue to tell the age old story and the reason for our faith - to enable all of us to 'be there' and take part of His story. A lot of hard work goes into the dramas, but our efforts don't really seem like work. We come together in love and fellowship and contribute our time and talents until it all comes together. It is an honor and a pleasure, and most certainly a privilege to be able to work together to tell His story.

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MICAH MEALS – COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCH



You're invited to join us again for a special Thanksgiving MICAH Meal at noon! Come and share the warm fellowship and great food at Bethany - you'll be glad you came and spent time getting to know neighbors in your community. This lunchtime meal is free, all are welcome and sometimes we have a live piano concert! What are MICAH Meals all about? MICAH means Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger - it's another way for YOU and Bethany to share God's love and help fight hunger in our community. For more information about MICAH, see Scott Cornell or Arlene Harris. For more ways to help, learn about HIHI, the Pantry, and our 'Grow to Give' Garden.

THE OPEN DOOR – NEWSLETTERS FOR 2015



Bethany's Presbyterian Women are doing amazing work to nurture faith, support mission, work for justice and peace, and build community. Missed The Open Door where we shared highlights of their great work? No worries! Get a year's worth of back issues online on our website or call the church for more information.

STOCKING THE PANTRIES ALL YEAR LONG



Huntington needs YOUR HELP to keep the food pantries stocked all year long. The hunger shortage still exists and continues to grow, more and more each year. With your help, we'll make a difference and reduce hunger on Long Island. Please leave your donation in the wicker basket in the Narthex. Any non-perishable food item is appreciated and helps support the Huntington Community Food Council! Each month, we'll suggest a new item.

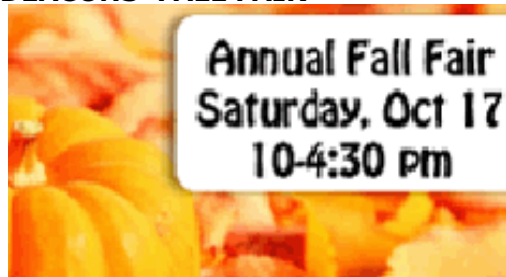
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DEACONS' FALL FAIR



Once again, we had a terrific fall fair and a successful fund raiser - lots of vendors, good food, and fun for everyone all the way around. Parents and adults shopped while children played in the Bounce house and got their faces painted or painted their own pumpkin. Proceeds support Deacon mission and outreach community events throughout the year. If you'd like to sell your merchandise or promote your business' services at our next fair, contact the church office.

DRIVERS NEEDED FOR DEACON HOLIDAY MEAL DELIVERY



We need your help to deliver meals on Thanksgiving Day - at 9 a.m. You may be blessed to have somewhere to go and someone to spend Thanksgiving with - but everyone's not that fortunate. Please, remember those who need and depend on us. You can help the Deacons and volunteers make Thanksgiving a little brighter by assembling at church to deliver meals for Thanksgiving. Contact Marilynne Geiffert or any Deacon. Holiday meals are also delivered for Christmas and Easter. Holiday Meal Volunteers meet at 8 am and Drivers meet at 9 am. Each 'care package' includes a meal, dessert, and an invitation to an upcoming event.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL LIVING NATIVITY: BELIEVE



Eleven years. That's a long time to sustain anything - and yet, with God's grace and dedicated members of Bethany Presbyterian Church, the Living Nativity continues. Moreover, it has thrived and transcended the mere simplicity of an 'event'. It has become... **Tradition!** "Believe" - this year, almost 100 guests were encouraged to believe in what they felt inside, as readily as they believed in things when they were young. Children sat mesmerized in the first two pews as live musical performances, good old-fashioned story-telling and a Tenebrae-style service (a series of readings about Jesus) unfolded before their eyes. All were surprised as they learned at the end of the story that this was no ordinary re-telling when the storyteller was revealed to be the Baby Jesus. Amazingly, we also received over \$80 in free will donations and several cans of food for our pantry collection. For many members, families and the Huntington community, the Living Nativity drama - each year told with a new, creative twist - has become a part of their overall Christmas experience to celebrate the birth of Our Lord. And as the audience excitedly proclaims, each re-telling is better than the last. It's clear - with 39 members participating (four more than last year!), additional members delivering Bethany's hospitality afterwards, and countless others experiencing it - the Living Nativity binds us together.

SHOW YOUR LOVE – BETHANY MEMORIAL BENCH PLAN



Memorialize loved ones with the Bethany Memorial Bench Plan. Bethany Presbyterian Church is blessed to be situated on five acres of beautiful land - perfectly filled with the right balance of trees and views of the sky to allow for contemplative reflection. Now, memorial benches will be added to provide a perfect place to enjoy this beauty and at last, we'll have places to sit, mediate, pray, and enjoy God's presence on our beautiful land - all while honoring our loved ones. Our Deacons will facilitate placement and installation of the memorial benches - and there are endless possibilities for arranging them on our grounds. We hope you will embrace this project as another way for Bethany to visibly show our love of God, our church, her people and community, and our loved ones who have gone to God's glory. Please prayerfully consider honoring a loved one and enjoying the peace and serenity of Bethany's gardens in a new way. For more information and to see actual bench samples, please contact Deacons Marilynne Geiffert and Suzanne Idise.

Here's how the plan works:

- Each bench accommodates up to four commemorative plaques and will be installed when four plaques are ordered
- Each plaque costs \$300 per person - the true value is priceless to memorialize your loved one
- Each plaque can be engraved with your choice of wording, with room for 5 lines of script, each plaque sized at 8 inches x 3 inches with a brown sand recessed background and brushed bronze raised lettering
- Upkeep and care for each bench will be provided by Bethany Presbyterian Church and includes all maintenance (staining, landscaping, and field stones).