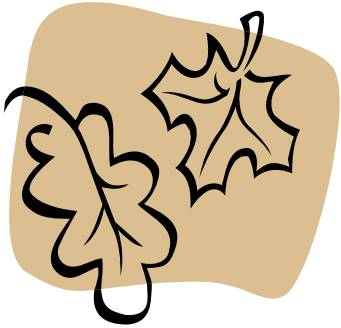


The Highlands

The Church in the Highlands Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2009



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HUGE TAG SALE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 9-2

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13 12-4

The tag sale is one of two major fundraisers this year, so we need everyone to lend a helping hand! **We Need Donations:** We are currently accepting wire hangers, bags, clothing, house wares, linens, furniture, books, CDs, DVDs, bric-a-brac, shoes and anything else you've outgrown! We are happy to pick up larger items too. **We Need Volunteers:** Come help us continue to sort and price merchandise. On the sale day, we'll need cashiers, security, baggers, etc! We will also have a baked goods and produce table, so bake a pie, make a loaf of zucchini bread or make some jam for a good cause! Look for volunteer sign ups in the social hall.

Family Worship

3rd Sunday of every month: September 20.

Bring your friends! Everyone Welcome!

Join us at The Church in The Highlands for our family worship service. This unique worship service is created for children and their families with lots of movement, kid songs, bible stories, friends and faith!

BIBLE STUDY - TWO OPTIONS!

New This Fall! Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 7:30-8:30.

Evenings don't work? Join our ongoing Tuesday morning session at 10:00!

We will explore the exciting study, The Bible Workbench. One of the texts from the Revised Common Lectionary is chosen each week. The study begins with a discussion of what is happening in the biblical text. The focus then shifts to how this story is happening in the world around us. Finally the questions turn toward how the story is an event in the lives of the people in the group. The journey through the text seeks life-giving questions that wait to be lived. We hope you'll join us!

AN INVITATION FROM THE CHOIR

Choir will resume on September 6th. All are welcome to join us. Choir rehearsal will begin at 9:15 AM on September 6th and 13th, after which we will resume our 8:30 AM start time.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

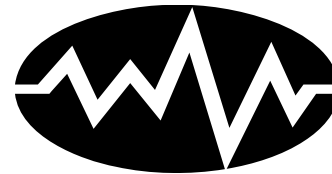
During worship, on July 19th, our small group of thoughtful, committed sisters and brothers got a little bigger. It was with great joy, we entered into membership covenant with Margaruite Kass, Liz Pineda and Debra Ann Rosenberg. We welcome them to our faith family and look forward to serving White Plains together.

LIFELINE SCREENINGS

The Church in the Highlands is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening Radiology, the nation’s leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will support their affordable, non-invasive,

painless health screenings on October 29, 2009 from 9.00a.m.-5.00 p.m. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-888-653-6441 for more information or to register for this event.



DISCIPLES OF JOBUI

Our beloved church softball team, *The Disciples of Jobui* (DOJ), is just two games away from the playoffs!

Come cheer them on:

- Thursday, August 27 @ Gillie field, 6:00PM; and
- Wednesday, September 2 @ Gillie field, 6:00PM.

If the DOJ win on the 27th they lock up a spot in the playoffs! And they have a very good chance at the #2 seed if they win both games!

No word yet on when the playoffs will start...but you may need your long-underwear to join the cheering sections!

Congratulations, Disciples of Jobui!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Unexpected Community

Happiness turns up more or less where you'd expect it to - a good marriage, a rewarding job, a pleasant vacation. Joy, on the other hand, is as notoriously unpredictable as the one who bequeaths it.

-Fredrick Beuchner

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:10-11

It's almost football season. Having grown up in Nebraska, the love of college football has been imprinted on my heart and mind. Several years ago I went into New York City to watch the Nebraska/Notre Dame football game. My cousin's wife, Danene, discovered an active University of Nebraska Alumni Chapter in Manhattan. They get together to watch every televised Cornhusker game. Can you believe it? A little bit of home in the heart of the city! It was amazing, sixty people with an instant connection! We cheered together. We held our breath together. We sat on the edge of our chairs at the beginning

of overtime. We celebrated our victory at the end of overtime.

Nebraska Cornhusker fans take college football very seriously. The game we gathered to watch in Manhattan was a Notre Dame home game, for which Notre Dame allocated 4,000 tickets for Nebraska fans. Twenty thousand Husker fans showed up and bought tickets from Notre Dame ticket holders. I was told from a Nebraska fan that Notre Dame expressed embarrassment that their fans were more interested in making money from ticket sales than supporting their team. I once attended a Minnesota Gopher/Nebraska Cornhusker game at the Super Dome in Minneapolis. Three-quarters of the crowd was wearing red and white, Husker colors. Most Nebraska fans will go to great lengths to support their "Big Red."

I still go into the city on occasion to watch the games. The fun for me is more than just watching the games and cheering the Huskers on. It is, for me, more than just the hair raising, and somewhat nerve wracking victories. The best part of the day is getting together to celebrate with a community of people I have never met before; hugging people whose names I do not know. I experience an event that brings strangers together. I walk up Fifth Avenue after the games wearing a Nebraska T-shirt and to my amazement the celebration continues. People approach me asking about the games. They are always from Nebraska, all recognizing the connection we hold.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Meatless Monday

From nyipl.org (New York Interfaith Power & Light) & meatlessmonday.com

That wonderful day several years ago began at the train station. I was standing on the platform waiting to get on the train which would take me to the game. As I stared ahead lost in my thoughts I spotted on the other side of the tracks, maybe 10 feet away, a stock of corn. Can you believe it? Dangerously close to the third rail, stood a wonderful reminder of home. I've wondered about that stock of corn ever since. How did it get there? The only thing I can imagine is that the corn stock was the resurrection of a littered popcorn bag. In spite of how it got there that corn stock started my wonderful day. It was the first glimpse of home and comfort of that long day filled with more of the same.

Oh how I wish all of humanity were joyfully connected like that group of Nebraska folks in Manhattan. Oh how I wish all of humanity could start their day with joyful reminders of home. Celebrating and hugging people we've never met before, not because of football games and corn stocks, but because of something more meaningful. I long for the day when our common humanity unites us in joy, celebration and love. I long for the day when we recognized that we are a human family; one who feels deeply and loves strongly.

Peace,
Melanie



The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization has estimated that meat production accounts for nearly a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions. These are generated during the production of animal feeds, for example, while ruminants, particularly cows, emit methane, which is 23 times more effective as a global warming agent than carbon dioxide. The agency has also warned that meat consumption is set to double by the middle of the century. Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that people should have one meat-free day a week if they want to make a personal and effective sacrifice that would help tackle climate change, then go on to reduce their meat consumption even further. "In terms of immediacy of action and the feasibility of bringing about reductions in a short period of time, it clearly is the most attractive opportunity," said Pachauri. *The Guardian*, Sept. 7, 2008

Going meatless once a week is one of the best things you can do for your health, too! In fact, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is promoting *Meatless Mondays* as a way of preventing lifestyle diseases. Meatless Monday is a non-profit initiative of The Monday Campaigns, in association with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Their goal is to help reduce meat consumption 15% in order to improve personal health and the health of our planet. We provide the information and recipes you need to start each week with healthy, environmentally friendly meat-free alternatives.

Presidents Wilson, Truman and Roosevelt galvanized the nation with voluntary meatless days during both world wars. By reviving this American tradition we can help address the challenges we face today. Going meatless once a week may reduce your risk of chronic preventable conditions like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. It can also help reduce your carbon footprint and save precious resources like fresh water and fossil fuel. We can improve our health, reduce our carbon footprint and lead the world in the race to mitigate climate change.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Jennifer Casinelli is the daughter of Tony and Lynne Casinelli and the sister of Michael Casinelli. She was baptized and confirmed at the Church in the Highlands and also attended our Nursery School. Jennifer has a passion for adventure and international travel. She “caught the travel bug” in the summer of her junior year in high school when she traveled to Poland as part of the Experiment in International Living.

Since that time she has traveled abroad five times, visiting Panama, The Czech Republic, Ireland, England, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Turkey, Georgia, and Syria. Her most recent trip was a six month adventure of study and travel to Turkey which was her semester abroad as required for her studies in International relations. While in Turkey, she attended Bogazici University, which is located in Istanbul overlooking the Bosphorus Strait. Upon her return to the States she completed her studies at SUNY Geneseo, earning a BA in International Relations. She is currently employed at NY Presbyterian Hospital in the In-

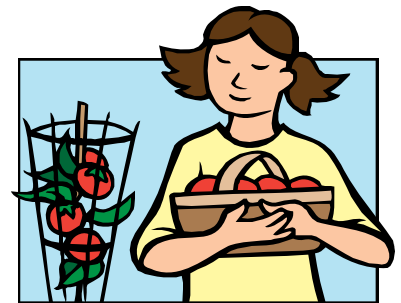


ternational Patient Services Dept.

Should you ask Jennifer about her travels, she will always tell you about the people she meets, the friends she has made and the great food!!

COMMUNITY GARDEN

If you haven't seen our community garden yet, be sure to come take a look! We have been selling the produce on Sundays after worship services. Please let your friends and neighbors know about our endeavor. It is an enormous accomplishment and a huge asset to the community. Those who contribute their time will get first dibs on produce along with discounted rates. Look for produce tables on Sunday mornings and check the weekly sales schedule in the social hall. Thanks to all who have purchased so far!



NURSERY SCHOOL

Highlands Summer Camp was a big success! For 5 weeks, children came to camp to sing, dance, play outside, and go in the sprinklers (when it wasn't raining, of course!) Fun was had by all and the children were sad to say goodbye. Special thanks to the many Junior Counselors who volunteered their time to help make the children's camp experience all the more enjoyable!

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE HIGHLANDS

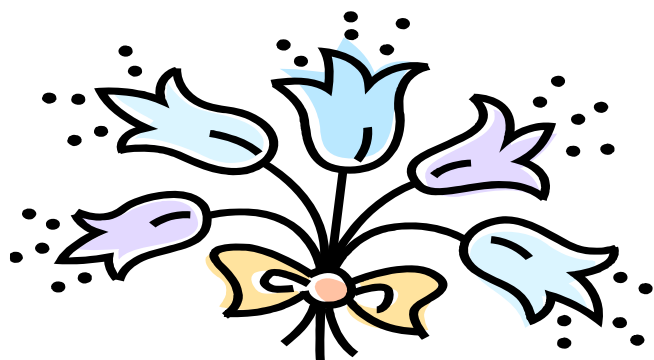
Send or e-mail info@churchinhighlands.org your article to the church office marked "For Highlands." Be sure to include your name and phone number. Any articles submitted after the 15th of the month will appear in the next issue of the Highlands.

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

Every Sunday and Thursday evening you may see Views From the Pews at 7:00 p.m. on cable channel 76 and on FIOS channel 45.

FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

If you would like to order flowers to beautify the sanctuary for a particular Sunday, please call our Altar Guild chair, Debbie Oleson at (914) 328-8453.



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS & EMAIL ADDRESSES



- Pastor — Melanie Miller
(914) 428-4215 (home)
(914) 671-5390 (cell)
mmiller@churchinhighlands.org
- Moderator — Tony Casinelli
(914) 997-1506
- Vice Moderator — Gary Vaughan
(914) 328-0687
- Treasurer — Veda Szkolar
(914) 682-4728
- Director of Music — Dr. Robert A. Chase
(914) 946-8126
- Altar Guild — Debbie Oleson
(914) 328-8453
- Church Office
(914) 949-2023
- Church Office Fax —
(914) 686-2816
- Church e-mail —
Info@churchinhighlands.org
- Web Site — www.churchinhighlands.org
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- Early Childhood Center (Nursery School) —
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