



# PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## September 2010

### Events for this Month

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 11 Memorial Service for Gale Berger<br>2 p.m.                        | 14 Session meets              |
| 12 Choir resumes<br>Welcome Back Pool Party at Marjorie<br>Douglas's | 19 First day of Sunday School |

### REFLECTIONS

“What we are all more or less lacking at this moment is a new definition of holiness.”

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

During my vacation I broke one of my cardinal rules. For the past eleven years of my ministry when I am away I read only for pleasure and only fiction. Non-fiction, especially anything remotely theological is off limits. So why, I wondered, did I give in to temptation and read the memoir of Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest, entitled *Leaving Church?*

In retrospect the main reason was simply curiosity. Taylor is one of the country's most sought after preachers and a regular at almost every major preaching conference. I couldn't help but wonder why she was leaving her pulpit. The deeper reason, however, was my own anxiety. I have been pondering why people are leaving the church and I thought if someone like Barbara Brown Taylor jumped ship it must be worse than I imagined.

To my great surprise and relief her leaving had nothing to do with loss of faith or commitment to the gospel. Rather, her decision stemmed from her frustration with how the institutional church understood itself. One of her observations confirmed one of my dreams for what church can be when at its best. In the book she shared a friend's understanding of seminary not as the place where God lived, for God lived in the world, but as a place for seminarians to try and make sense of their experience of God in the world, as well as a community to support them while they did. Taylor wrote:

“If churches saw their mission in the same way, there is no telling what might happen. What if people were invited to come tell what they already know of God instead of to learn what they are supposed to believe? What if they were blessed for what they are doing in the world instead of chastened for not doing more...what if church felt more like a way station than a destination?”

“What if?” I too thought as I began this month's Reflection. As we begin to think about a new year full of the programs we have come to know and trust, may we also begin to look beyond the church doors and into the world where the Living God is aching to be heard.

Peace, Angela

### Condolences

Condolences to the Rubinsky/Hancock family on the death of Rev. Dr. E. Lee Hancock. Lee served as our Parish Associate from 1999 through 2003. She was a great friend to the congregation and will be remembered and greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to hear her preach, experience her presence in a healing service or share a conversation with her and marvel at her intellect and humor. A celebration of her life was held in July at the Nyack Center. Another Memorial Service will be held on September 12 at 3 p.m. at Judson Memorial Church in New York City.

Sympathy to the family of Gale Berger, a faithful member of our church for many years, A Memorial Service to celebrate Gale's life will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, September 11 at 2 p.m.

### Welcome Back Pool Party at Marjorie Douglas's 275 Kings Highway Orangeburg

Sunday, September 12, after worship, Marjorie Douglas has once again graciously agreed to host our annual Welcome Back pool party and picnic. Parish Life will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and the congregation is asked to bring salads and desserts. There will be sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. It's always lots of fun so please plan to be there.

### Christian Education

The first day of Sunday School will be September 19 (not September 12 as previously announced.)

We offer four classes for our children: Pre-school, kindergarten through second grade, third through fifth grade, and sixth through eighth grade.

The children are excused from the service to attend their classes after the children's message. On communion Sundays they return to the service to receive communion.

All children are welcome and Sunday School teachers are always appreciated. Please contact Carol Knudson at 359-0160, or aiyana@optonline.net if you have any questions.

### Choir Resumes

Choir will resume leading worship on Sunday, September 12.

## Mission Update

**Feed the Need Walk at Kennedy Dells Park:** We participated with 6 others churches and raised \$8,600 to support hunger assistance programs (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, People to People, Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program and Meals on Wheels).

**Youth for Seniors:** We collected \$320 for Howie Friedman to use for a fun trip or activity for his youth volunteers—we hope to hear from Howie in the Fall—especially as we gear up to raise money for Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas presents for children in the hospitals in Harlem.

**Breakfast Midnight Run:** On a very hot July summer morning we did our second annual breakfast run. We took three carloads of food and supplies and volunteers to the Stuyvesant Cove Park on the east side. Approximately 40 homeless people met us and many helped us to set up tables and organize the morning distribution. We served quiche, sausages, donuts, coffee, fruit, juice and water. John Guzewich carved up a large watermelon that was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who donated food, clothing, toiletries, cars, time and energy for this very important mission.

At any time, you can make a donation to Midnight Run through the church. If you shop online you can reach popular sites such as Amazon.com through the Midnight Run website. If you do, Midnight Run receives a small portion of the sale at no additional cost to you. Please know that your support of Midnight Run is greatly needed, greatly appreciated and greatly effective in reaching out to our homeless neighbors in New York City.

## Concert of Remembrance at Grace Church

The eighth annual *Concert for Remembrance, 9/11* will be held Sunday, September 12, at 5:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY. Sponsored by the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust, the concert is given in memory of all of the victims and heroes of the attacks against our country on September 11, 2001. There is no charge for admission and the public is invited.

## Future Events

Our traditional Harvest Festival will take place on Saturday, October 16. It will feature home made soups, breads, pies and desserts, games for children, including face painting and pumpkin decoration and, of course, our silent auction of goods and services. All proceeds go towards the work of our church. It's an all-day event, so plan to come and have a wonderful time.

## Book Signing

Author Georgia Pellegrini will be signing her new book *Food Heroes: 16 Culinary Artisans Preserving Tradition* on Sunday, September 12, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the home of PJ Mouquin, 2 Rockland Rd. Sparkill, NY. Georgia is Frances Pellegrini's Granddaughter. There will be a reception and everyone is welcome.

## Bible Study Resumes

Bible Study resumes on Wednesday September 15 at 12:15 p.m. and we are studying the Book of Dueteronomy.

## Deacons' Corner

As September begins and summer slides away, we return to the routines that set the pace for most of the year. Life at Palisades Presbyterian picks up as well: attendance increases, Sunday School resumes, the choir once again fills the services with song. For the Deacons, this usually means more activities to help plan and support, more scheduled meetings, and somewhat more elaborate coffee hours. If you have suggestions for these cooler weather coffee hours, or would like to bring a dish or volunteer to help out, please speak to any of the Deacons.

This month, the Deacons' Corner highlights one Deacon activity that carries through the changing of the season, and goes on each week, often out of sight of most members. It's traditionally referred to as the "Deacon of the Month" although at present the same Deacon, Cass Ludington, has been filling the role each month. A main responsibility of the Deacon of the Month is to respond to prayer requests and other concerns raised during the portion of the Sunday Service known as "Joys and Concerns of the Congregation." When an individual is mentioned for a concern, the Deacon of the Month follows up with the person raising the concern, and in most cases, sends a card to let the individual, or their family, know that the congregations is holding them in our prayers. It's always gratifying when we hear back that the card and prayers are appreciated. And keep in mind that the Deacons can send cards and prayers, even if the concern is not called out specifically during the service. Just let Cass or any Deacon know if you have a special concern for someone who needs our support.

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 687  
PALISADES, NY 10964  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor REV. ANGELA J. MADDALONE  
Church Secretary RITA REID  
Office Hours TUES., WED., & FRI., 9-1  
Editor, Layout & Design ANN MCGILL  
Telephone 845-359-3147  
E-Mail [ppc10964@gmail.com](mailto:ppc10964@gmail.com)  
Website [www.ppc10964.org](http://www.ppc10964.org)  
Articles for submission to *Pal Pres* should be e-mailed to the editor at [amcgill1@optonline.net](mailto:amcgill1@optonline.net) by the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MONSEY, NY  
PERMIT NO. 6402

DATED MATERIAL