

Colonial Church

O F B A Y S I D E

Our Church Newsletter

March 2023

LIVING WATER

SCRIPTURE: Read John 4:1-26 to follow the encounter of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. It is one of the many times Jesus uses something as common as water to make a spiritual point.

TEXT: John 4:10 “Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.’”

Early in March, I preached on this fascinating passage from John. It was very common for Jesus to use things like water, bread, salt, and light to compare essential material necessities to essential spiritual necessities. His whole point about not living by bread alone was to illustrate that we cannot content ourselves with material security. Our eternal security depends on God, who in his gracious love sent Jesus to become spiritual food for us.

Consequently, when we celebrate Holy Communion, we pray to the Holy Spirit that the bread and wine become for us the body and blood of Christ. It is in this manner, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we enjoy the living water, the bread that does not perish, the wine that gives life. It is by taking Jesus into our bodies and thus our souls, that we become flesh of his flesh. And by so doing, we become with him the light of the world, the salt that gives flavor, the yeast that makes the bread delicious.

Making that connection between things ordinary and things spiritual is essential for our spiritual maturity. But like salt and yeast, we do not require it. Nor do we require great theological knowledge of how it is that we are made one with Christ.

Even those who have no ability to consider such mysteries, still may drink the living water and find salvation in Christ. I think of the mentally challenged and the young children who have not yet gained the ability to discern such things. Rather, in their own way, they simply feel God's goodness. No, the knowledge of the great mysteries preached by Christ was in order that we might grow richer in faith. It was so that some might become like Peter and Paul; some might even become leaders in the church able to satisfy the thirst and hunger of the people. What is essential is not knowledge. What is essential is Christ!

ILLUSTRATION

On the Sunday that I preached on the living water I did a magic trick for our children. Notice I said "trick." All magic is simply a trick. The vase that amazed our kids because it seemed to never run out of water, was just a trick. And the children will soon discover that for themselves. But like so many of the metaphors of Jesus, the bottomless vase was meant to make a point. Of course, I could have simply told the story of the woman at the well. But is it not true? How much more will the children remember the day in church when a vase never ran dry? And how much more likely will they then remember that Jesus will never let them thirst as long as they follow him? And in that sense, mystically if not magically, Jesus becomes for them the living water.

May your Lenten season continue to inspire you to be the salt, the light, and the life that gives life in Christ.

Linden



ONGOING PRAYERS

**CLYDE WHITE
BRETT ROELOFS
FRAN PALAZZO
TOM CONREY
BARBARA BURNS
BILL LAURSEN
DON SHELTON
ROBERTA BOWEN
NUALA SANCHEZ
LUCUS
RYAN
TERESITA
IRENE
SHARYN
BRIAN SINRAM
HELENMARY
JANET & JOSEPH
SHERRY RONIS
MISSY GRANAGHAN
BURKART FAMILY
PHYLLIS G
GAYNOR FAMILY
ROMANO FAMILY
BERTRANO S.
BERNICE S.
STEPHEN T.**

**ON SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH WE WILL REFRESH OUR PRAYER LIST IN ORDER THAT IT
REMAINS CURRENT
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO LIST PEOPLE ON OUR PRAYER LIST
OR FILL OUT A PEW CARD.**

Lenten Food Drive

March 5, 2023

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' ~ Matthew 25: 40

The Deacons of Colonial Church are organizing a Lenten Food Drive to benefit The First Reformed Church of College Point Food Pantry.

Pantry items, listed below, will be collected through Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023.

40 CAN CHALLENGE: Lent 2023

First Reformed Church of College Point Food Pantry

The Challenge:

GIVE 40 PANTRY ITEMS, ONE FOR EACH DAY OF LENT

Canned Beans · Canned Vegetables · Canned Fruit · Canned Soup · Canned Tuna ·
Cereal · Shelf-Stable Milk · Pasta · Pasta Sauce · Rice · Peanut Butter · Jelly · Mac &
Cheese

Please bring in your food donations and place them in the box located in the Narthex.

All volunteers wanting to assist in organizing and transporting the food, please see the Deacons: Careen, Carol, Debbie, Yolanda

**The Colonial Church of Bayside
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Dates: EVERY 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month

Proverbs 22:6 – Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from i

We are an all-inclusive ministry, and we welcome all children to join in the learning and activities that our teachers will be providing at no cost to parents.

This year we will be teaching on Prayer, and the Books of the Bible Children's Church Curriculum. We will also be doing The Jesse Tree during Advent.

Last year's parents and our teachers, Debbie Caracci and Debbie Conrey, are excited about this new upcoming adventure and hope that there are other families that will join us on this adventure of exploring the greatest book ever written.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" -Psalm 119:105"

***Blessings,
Elder Janet Cardillo, Children's Ministry Leader***

For more information: Contact Janet Cardillo, 516-838-9730 or email jandg357@gmail.com

CALL AND RESPONSE

I think that most people do not fully appreciate the world of sound. People who share my health challenges learn to rely on sound for survival. To make a spiritual point, let me invite you into my world of sound.

During my bouts of insomnia, I am often awake long before sunrise. This is the time of day when it seems that every bird God has ever created is singing outside my window. This phenomenon, called the "dawn chorus" consists largely of male birds defending their territory and attempting to attract mates. Being unable to return to sleep, I go down to my kitchen to fetch a cup of coffee. As I do this, our elderly cat "meows" for his breakfast. It is interesting to note that adult cats make this sound only when interacting with humans. Scientists speculate that this is so because humans are unresponsive to the usual forms of feline communication such as facial expression and body posture. As the morning progresses, I often go out back to enjoy the sun. When I do this, I am often joined by our beloved dog who comes outside to lie on her blanket. When she does this, a squirrel in a nearby tree makes that chattering sound with which we are all familiar. Squirrels make this sound to warn other squirrels that there is a nearby ground predator. All these sounds are calls. A call is a form of communication designed to convey information and to elicit a response. The male robins are inviting the females to join them. Our cat is commanding me to open his can of Fancy Feast. The squirrel is telling his comrades that great danger lurks in the Conery's backyard. As you know, we too are being called to respond.

I like to think of the Bible as the story of God's great call and the stories of the many ways in which people have responded. God called Moses and he responded by becoming the great leader of Israel. God called Mary and she responded by giving herself to the will of God. Jesus called his apostles, and they responded by leaving everything and following Him. The Risen Christ called Paul and he responded by becoming the apostle to the gentiles. That enduring call continues in our lives today.

I think that there are general and specific ways in which God calls us. All Christians are called to respond through musical and liturgical worship. In our personal lives, we respond through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, scriptural study, fasting and leading a life filled with selfless love. In addition, God calls us in specific ways which are related to our life circumstances. What follows is a short list for your consideration.

Many of us are called to respond through parenting. Parenting is God's great gift to children. Parenting is the means through which our children are supported and protected

physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Many of us are also called to care for our parents during their later years. Our parents cared for every need when we were young, and it is our honor and joy to care for them during the times when they need us the most.

We also respond to God's call through the jobs we do. We New Yorkers are forever grateful to the front-line workers who kept us safe and well fed during the pandemic. We are grateful to the police officers and firefighters who keep us safe daily. Our country needs nurses, teachers, crossing guards and Uber drivers. It turns out that we praise God as we work each day. There is no such thing as an unimportant job in the Kingdom of God.

We are also called to respond through stewardship. Our primary areas of stewardship relate to the domains of time, energy, and financial resources. We praise God in our use of free time. Some people are called to do volunteer work. Others are called to positions of church leadership. All Christians are called to keep in touch with friends, neighbors and fellow church members who are sick or homebound. We are called to be stewards over our financial resources. All Christians are called upon to contribute to the support of the church and its various ministry programs. Others are called to contribute to legitimate charitable causes. We are also called to respond through faithful stewardship over God's "good" creation. It is our duty to keep the world safe and clean for our children and grandchildren.

Beloved, as the season of Lent progresses, let us be mindful of the many ways in which we are being called to respond to God's great call.

As always, God bless.

Tom Conrey

CCOB & EWC LUNCHEON



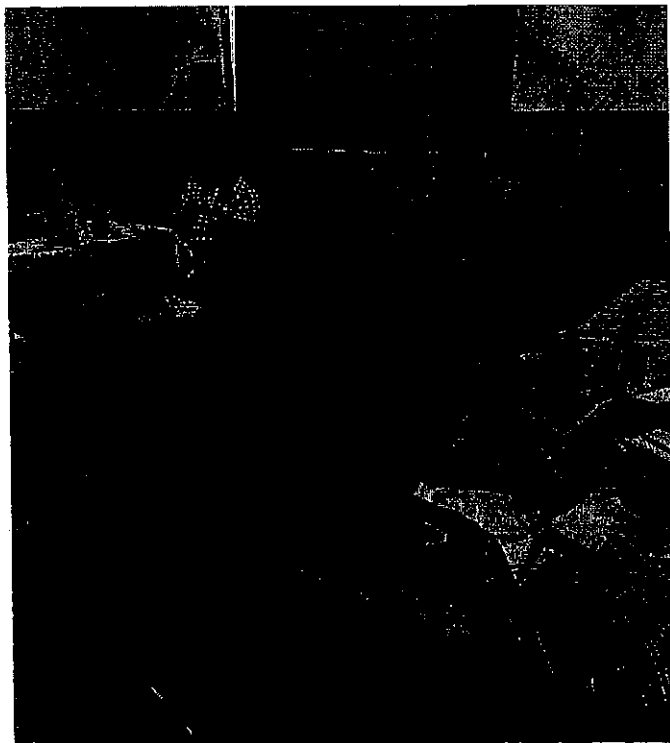
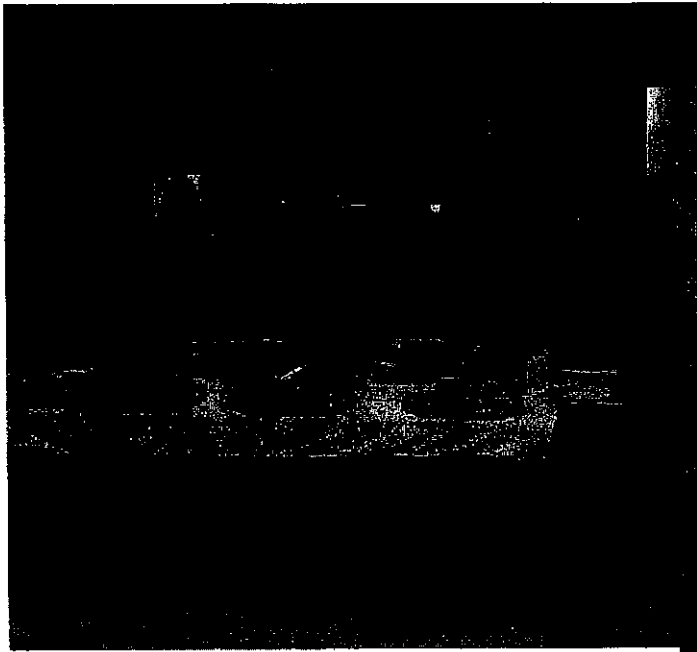
Thanking everyone for preparing the delicious food and attending our luncheon with East West Church on Saturday February 11th, 2023. The social hall was filled with love and fellowship. In addition to the great food and desserts, we played bible trivia games and raffled gift baskets as a fundraiser for our dear brother, Brett Roelofs. A big thank you to Joe and Alexandria who hosted the raffle and trivia game, a great success!

A good time was had by all!

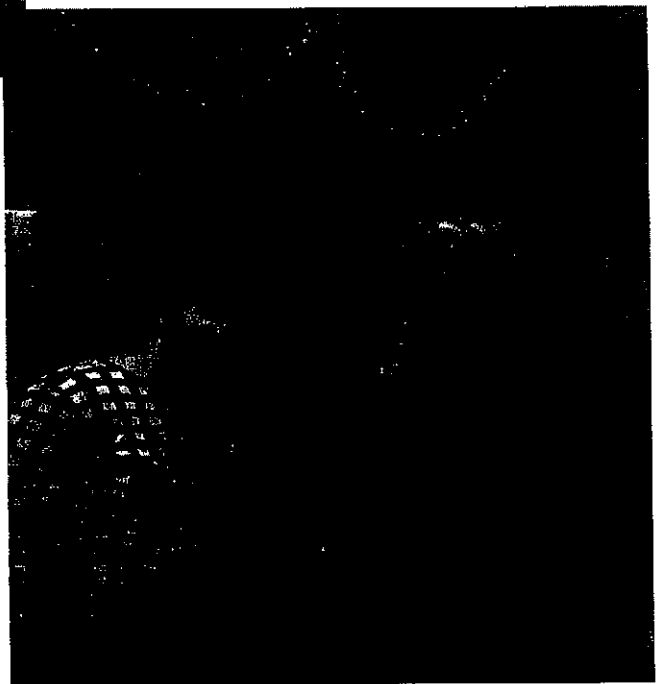


CCOB & EWC FAMILY

CCOB KITCHEN CREW



LOU, SANDY & ELMER



GRACE, JANET AND PASTOR JOSEPH

Elder Janet Cardillo is sharing a Message with you:

Dear Sisters on the Journey ~

All women are welcome for our **She is Called Thursday Evening Virtual Gathering**, where we share stories, scripture and prayer concerns; and encourage one another in our lives and ministries. As we approach Lent, we will be using resources by **Jan Richardson** to guide our conversation, prompt our prayers and connect us more deeply with God.

Alternate Thursdays

Feb. 9 - May 18, 2023

7:30 - 9:00pm eastern via Zoom (*you will see the link pop up once you have registered. A reminder will be sent each week, but the link will be the same*)

Resources to be used:

2/9: **The Map We Make Ourselves**, available as a free PDF

at <https://sanctuaryofwomen.com/WomensChristmasRetreat2013.pdf>

2/23 - 5/18: **In the Sanctuary of Women: A Companion for Prayer and Reflection**, 2010. Amazon offers a look inside so you can read over some parts and get a feel for the content. It's also available as an audio book at Barnes and Noble, and on a couple discounted sites. Your local library is another place to look.

Whether you are new to this virtual gathering space, a long time member or somewhere in between, we warmly WELCOME YOU to join us for whatever evenings work for you. We look forward to our time together starting on 2/9, and encourage you to invite a friend or church sister who you feel would benefit from this special gathering. We are excited for what God has in store for us as 2023 unfolds!

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/TP5aKUTERoqJhZNeA>

In Peace and Hope,
Rev. Liz Testa and Pastor Pam Otten

"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, whose steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south." Psalm 107: 1-3

Women's Transformation and Leadership
Reformed Church in America
#sheiscalled #ellaesllamada
#lavishhope #encourageoneanother

Check out these resources for you and your faith community:

- [She is Called/Ella es Llamada Women of the Bible Study, Volumes 1 and 2](#)
- [Lavish Hope, stories of resilience and overcoming podcast, now in it's 4th season!](#)
- [Building God's Church Together Bible Study](#)
- [Recursos en Español](#)
- [Equity-Based Hospitality Study](#)
- [Dismantling Racism Prayer Movement](#)

Join our community on Facebook ("RCA Women" closed group and "She is Called" page)

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Scripture is filled with references to the importance of preserving the temple or sanctuary for the people of God.

“And all the skillful men who were performing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work which he was performing, and they said to Moses, “The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the Lord commanded us to perform.” Exodus 36:4-5.

“You shall keep My sabbaths and revere My sanctuary; I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:30.

“A glorious throne on high from the beginning.” Jeremiah 17:12.

“I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1.

The Colonial Church of Bayside is currently following Old Testament tradition in our project to restore the Sanctuary and Education building windows. This is not just a necessity to perform, it is a holy obligation, and it should inspire joy in the hearts of our members just as it did with the people of Israel.

In addition to this holy obligation, our families, members, and friends have a chance to erect a permanent memorial to a loved one. I hope all of us will feel the call of God to purchase a Sanctuary window (\$3,500) and/or an Education Building window (\$600) to be restored and memorialized. Or each of us may wish to make our best donation to the restoration of the windows. Either way, we are answering the call of God by contributing to the work of the people of God to honor and bless the House of the Lord.

Peace, until we are once again united in the presence of God in the House of the Lord.

Pastor Linden DeBie & the CCOB Windows Project Committee

COLONIAL CHURCH WEBSITE

Our church website has been refreshed and updated with a beautiful new design and layout! You can check it out at colonialchurch.net.

To the Colonial Church of Bayside Members, The Queens Classis Annual member assessment is \$118.57per member. Checks payable to Colonial Church of Bayside and indicate Classis dues in the memo line. Please mail to: CCOB 54-02 217th Street Bayside, New York 11364



March 9th-Grace Cardillo
March 10th-Kathleen Huang
March 13th-Connie Busser
March 17th- Ron Keil
March 21st-Sandy Kalvoda
March 23rd-Tom Conrey
March 25th-Stephanie Carac

2023

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
10:30 HOLY COMMUNION		ADMIN. MEETING (ZOOM) 7:30				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL		CONSISTORY MEETING (ZOOM) 7:30		10:30 PRAYER SERVICE	ST. PATRICK'S DAY	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE						
26 SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	27	28	29	30	31	

Colonial Church of Bayside Consistory 2023

Pastor Linden DeBie
Howard Keyes, Treasurer
Carol White, Stated Clerk

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Elders

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