



*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear
much fruit, because apart from me
you can do nothing."*

John 15:5

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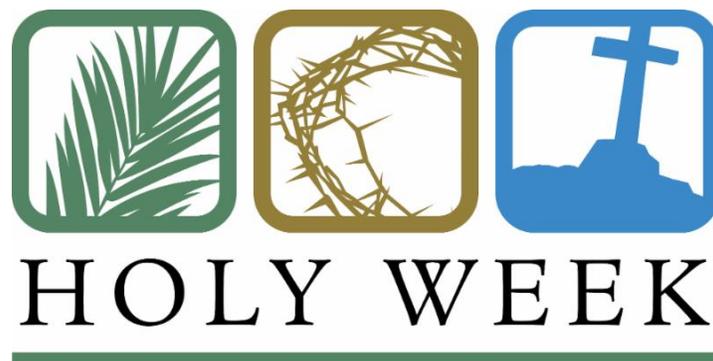


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April 7, 2017

Dear Friends of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery,

Welcome to this week's edition of our e-letter, *Presbytery Matters*. Our goal is to highlight things going on throughout the Church: within our Presbytery, in our congregations, as well as in the Synod of the Northeast and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We hope that these are things that will be helpful, informative, challenging, encouraging, supportive. In other words, we hope that these things will matter. Your input is valued, and your comments are always welcomed!



From Nancy Wind at Isaiah's Table...

Isaiah's Table Leaders take a Field Trip to Boston

Eight leaders from Isaiah's Table traveled to Boston, MA in April to visit the Common Cathedral. Common Cathedral (Ecclesia Ministries, Inc.) is an outdoor congregation, housed and un-housed, sharing God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common. We are non-proselytizing and ecumenical. We welcome and support all people.



We got on the road before sunrise on Sunday, April 2nd and arrived on the Boston Common early enough to stretch our legs and get a short walk in the Boston Public Garden before being greeted by the vivacious Rev. Mary (UCC) who gave us a great orientation to their ministry. Soon more and more people began to gather around the Brewer Fountain in the Common. It was a sunny, but cool day. When the breeze wasn't blowing it was very comfortable. Everyone was in a great mood because the weather was really great compared to the storm of the preceding two days.

Lunch began at 12:30 with announcements and a blessing. A church from Portsmouth, NH handed out 150 sandwiches they brought, as people kept gathering and enjoying hot coffee and hot chocolate. At one o'clock worship began. There were many opportunities to participate in the worship service, including sharing prayer concerns and thoughts about the scripture of the day. There was also a special time for remembering a beloved former community member and leader who passed away earlier in the week.

Another special thing that happened was that Amanda Grant-Rose, their executive director and Presbyterian Ruling Elder, was commissioned to be able to serve communion in the Boston Presbytery. I was even part of her commission! It was wonderful to be present for this special occasion to demonstrate our connectionalism as Presbyterians. Her congregation presented her with a handmade stole, which we all signed, a gift made by an artist that participates in their weekly art ministry, Common Art.

We celebrated communion and the joyful worship service ended (after 2 hours) with us all holding hands and signing "We Shall Overcome". On Monday morning we headed back to the Common, parked and walked to Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Newbury Street that provides space to Common Cathedral. We volunteered at BostonWarm, a day center which is open on Mondays and Fridays from 8-1. We met with Amanda and Rev. Mary, then with David, a BostonWarm staff member. We then had conversations with some of the 40-50 people who came in to sit, relax, have a cup of coffee, or just sleep. Some community members were busy in the kitchen creating a delicious lunch, which we helped serve at 11:30. We stayed through clean up. We said our thanks and goodbyes, and walked around Boston Public Garden for the obligatory "duck statue picture" before heading back to Syracuse.



It felt great to see a program that has a similar heart for hospitality as Isaiah's Table and to talk to leaders who "get us" and have the same kind of joys and challenges as we do. We will all be debriefing over the next weeks and it will be exciting to see what "bubbles up" from our field trip. Right now I am profoundly grateful for the hospitality of Common Cathedral. They were wonderful to us, but most importantly, they demonstrate the extravagant hospitality of Jesus in everything they do in Boston. The Kingdom of God is apparent at Common Cathedral. Thanks be to God!

Nancy Wind, Ministry Coordinator at Isaiah's Table

Send any mission stories from your congregation that you would like to share to Steve Plank: statedclerk@cayugasyracuse.org.

Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery



In our prayers together this week...

- Pray for Patrick and Jenna Heery. Patrick is the pastor at Westminster Church, Auburn, and Jenna is experiencing some difficulties with her pregnancy.
- Pray for the family and friends of Patricia Milliman. Pat died this past Tuesday morning. Pat had been an active member of Amboy Belle Isle for many, many years and will be greatly missed.

In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: our Presbytery (the Leadership Team, Work Groups, Committees, and Mission and Ministry Teams), the Synod of the Northeast, General Assembly staff.

If you'd like to share a particular joy or concern with the Presbytery, please contact Steve Plank at statedclerk@cayugasyracuse.org.

Vanderkamp News

While there always an abundance of projects here at Vanderkamp, spring, or rather winter and the approach of Summer Kamp adds to this list. We are asking for your help in getting Vanderkamp ship shape and looking great as we head into summer and Summer Kamp.



There are multiple ways to jump in; on the second Saturday of every month, you, your family, a group from your church or any other group you might assemble can join us from 1-5 pm for Second Saturday as we tackle a variety of projects around kamp. Here are the dates for the next few Second Saturday's: April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th and August 12. We simply ask that you let us know you are coming so we may plan accordingly.

Also, coming up in April is our annual Spring Work Weekend from Friday April 21st through Sunday the 23rd. There will be a variety of projects with food and fellowship for all! Lodging is available for those wishing to stay over and make a weekend of it. Please email Martha Lacy at volunteercoordinator@vk.org if you can help or would like more information. Finally, we never turn anyone away, and as we said there is always an abundance of things to be done. If you, your family, a group from your church or any other group you might assemble would like to come up and help out, let us know, it doesn't have to be a Second Saturday or a Work Weekend, your help is always welcomed. If you have questions about coming up to help out at Vanderkamp or anything else please do not hesitate to call (315-675-3651) or email us (vkcenter@vk.org).

In the News

Within the past few weeks, there have been print articles related to two of the congregations within our Presbytery.



On March 11, *Medley Magazine* (a publication of Syracuse University) published a wonderful and complimentary article about teaching elder Beth DuBois, pastor of South Valley Presbyterian Church. The article is entitled, "The Pastor Who's Refusing to Give Up." It talks about how Beth, along with the folks at South Valley, faced head-on the challenges of declining membership, diminished financial resources, and a problematic facility...which led, among other things, to the church's current partnership with Atonement Lutheran Church. It's

a great article, and you may read it [here](#).

The online version of the Auburn *Citizen* posted a great article about a special event sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Weedsport for the children of the community. The chairperson of the church's Christian Education Committee hid some 500 Easter eggs throughout the sanctuary, and, after the worship service, dozens of families stayed as their children found the eggs. A few of the eggs were special and had pictures inside of them. As those eggs were opened, teaching elder Mary Anderson, the pastor at the Weedsport church, used the pictures to tell part of the story of Jesus during Holy Week. Like the story above, this article, too, is great (other than the reporter referring to "Sunday mass" at the Presbyterian Church - oops), and you may read it [here](#).



Around the Presbytery

Children and Worship Training

Want to learn more about Children and Worship? Join us for basic training in April and

May!

For: Pastors, directors of Christian education, Children and Worship leaders, anyone who works with children

Dates and times: April 29, 2017, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and May 6, 2017, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 17 Williams St, Auburn NY 13021
Trainer: Geania Lasda

This event is sponsored by the Reformed Church in America. For more information and/or to register, please click [here](#).

You always may keep abreast on happenings in and around the Presbytery by checking the Presbytery events calendar (<http://cayugasyracuse.org/calendars>) and the church events calendar (<http://cayugasyracuse.org/calendars/church-events>).

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