Old First Church
Presbyterian
Founded 1658
Huntington, Long Island

The Weathervane
March 2016
Worship Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
From the Interim Pastor’s Study

Calling on our homebound members, I’m often asked the question, “How are things going at church?” I nod, smile and say, “Good—very good. Yes, things are going very well, indeed.” We are increasingly building momentum as we journey through this time of transition, envisioning your future and confidently building hope for your next era of ministry. As an outsider, this is what I see:

Most of all, we’ve come far—very far—in just 358 years. This became most apparent when we visited “The Vault” on February 21st for a tour and discussion. Thanks to Bernard Reverdin and his crew for all of their hard work curating our historical documents and artifacts!

Our Annual Meeting on February 7 was upbeat. We heard from representatives of our boards and organizations about the many ways they are running the business of the church and overseeing the ministry of our congregation. We also heard more from Treasurer Pete Fetterolf about our financial picture. I quote from a working draft of our Mission Study that sums up that picture:

> We are a well funded congregation with sufficient endowments to actively support new ideas and growth. Our funds are well managed by our Trustees and Session with the guidance of the Budget and Stewardship committee.

Trustees’ President Cindy Samuels also spoke about our upcoming Capital Campaign, “Restoration and Preservation,” that will be launched on February 28. By now, you should have received your invitation. If you haven’t, please RSVP to the listed email address or call the church office. In the meantime, capital projects are already in the works or completed—the restoration of the Fiske Room and now, Rooms 101 and 102 that have remade those classrooms into attractive rental space.

Later this year, committees are already busy working on plans for the refurbishment of the kitchen and Parish Hall. What’s more, after a recent energy audit, work will soon begin to bring interior church lighting up to 21st century standards, resulting each year in the savings of hundreds, if not thousands of church dollars. Finally, in the third year of the campaign, our parking lot and walkways will be redone.

And of course, there’s the signature piece of our Campaign, the restoration of our historic steeple. (Look for signs of aging in the photo to the left.) To that end, a contractor has been chosen for the restoration of the steeple; the Trustees are currently working on finalizing a contract with them. Once completed, the contractor will begin acquiring the proper permits and finalize scaffolding arrangements. They will also begin removing the parts of the steeple that are accessible from the inside, including three windows and the louvers. These items will be taken to the contractor’s shop for detailed restoration including stripping and priming.

If you haven’t already submitted the dates for your birthday and anniversary, please let the church office know as soon as possible so we can list them in the Weathervane for the appropriate months. Please note that since there is no Weathervane for the months of January, July, and August, these special days will be listed in the previous months’ issues.

Special Days to Celebrate

March

Birthdays

Sing a song of Birthdays
Full of fun and cheer
And may you keep on having them
For many a happy year.
(Anonymous)

12 Holly Baptista
13 Charles Beers
14 Gerry Schult

May you be showered with all God’s best blessings today and always.
You are invited to contribute to the news and newsworthiness of our congregation! The Weathervane is published by Old First Church and distributed to members and friends of Old First Church.

The deadline for the April 2016 issue of the Weathervane is March 15 2016 @ noon.

Please mail, hand deliver, or e-mail submissions to the Church office at cheriecornell@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org or office@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Weathervane is mailed the last Wednesday of each month. Anyone who is available and would like to help out, please let the church office know. Thank you.

If you do not want to receive a paper copy of the Weathervane so we can reduce postage cost, please let the Church office know. Thanks.

Keep in Touch …

...When going to Huntington Hospital, be sure you list “Old First Presbyterian Church” as your church. Hospital workers provide lists of Protestants and Presbyterians, but often do not know what “Old First’s” affiliation may be.

...If you are aware of a member in the hospital, please let us know. Many people are admitted through emergency and will not appear on any church lists. Your minister is there often and wants to call on you.

Please help by informing the church. We care.

The Transition Team has been hard at work writing the Mission Study. A first draft was presented to Session at their February meeting and based on feedback, is being reworked and retooled. A final version will be presented to the Session at their March 15 meeting for approval and then presented to the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry on April 5 for their approval. Once that approval is received, the Session will be charged to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.

In the meantime, the Congregational Nominating Committee (the Session committee that nominates church officers for election by the congregation) is hard at work seeking suggestions of members who may be interested in serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Watch for more on that in Thursday Updates, Sunday bulletin inserts or speak to Congregational Nominating Committee Chair Jim Colbert.

Finally, as the Transition Team continues to reflect on all of the data gathered from our boards and congregation during this interim time, a strong metaphor has emerged. Quoting from one draft of the Mission Study:

The metaphor of our steeple is the first step of our visible restoration. Removal and replacement of the damaged wood must come first. Then the new can follow. How fitting that this early step of our restoration is our steeple! All will look up and see the hard work it entailed. Many will also admire its beauty and see reflected in it the glory of God.

As the external side of the church is being restored, the internal side has also had repairs and changes that needed to be made. During this time of transition, the courage and strength of our congregation has begun to emerge. Both the inside and outside restoration of Old First Church continues to be a positive and exciting work-in-progress. We are very encouraged with our progress thus far.

Yes dear friends, this Interim Pastor is very encouraged with our progress! I believe the Apostle Paul sums up best our frame of mind:

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice; strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace, and the love of God will be with you.
(2 Corinthians13: 11)

Faithfully,

Interim Pastor
March 2016
Worship Schedule

† Sunday, March 6 - 4th Sunday in lent
10:00 am: Communion Worship

† Sunday, March 13 - 5th Sunday in lent
10:00 am: Worship

† Sunday, March 20 - Passion/Palm Sunday
10:00 am: Worship w/Kids’ and Youth Choirs

† Thursday, March 24 - Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm: Worship & Choir Cantata, “Lamentations of the Lamb”

† Friday, March 25 - Good Friday
12:00 pm: Worship

† Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday
9:00am: Worship
11:00 am: Worship

Don’t Forget

Daylight Saving time begins on Sunday, March 13th, at 2:00am.
Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12th.
Be on time * Don’t be late * Don’t miss out!!!

The Clothesline

Old First Church Mission Thrift Store

There will be a Thrift Store Meeting
Sunday, March 6th @11:15am in Room 101
Many of you already know that Cynthia has moved away from Huntington… If you think that “managing” our Thrift Shop is something you would like to do (by yourself or with a committee), please contact Cynthia Stewart (text or call) 516-780-2185

The Clothesline Thrift Store is looking for a volunteer for Thursdays and Fridays — the 11:00am -1:30pm shift.
If you think you are interested in helping — even for an occasional Thursday or Friday, please contact Cynthia at cynbadstew@yahoo.com or 516-780-2185.

Thrift Store Hours:
We are open Tues., Thurs., & Fri.
from 11am to 4pm

We accept clothing donations during hours of operation.

Community Food Council

The Community Food Council is in need of donations of non-perishable food items, canned goods and items such as toilet paper (always needed) which are not covered by food stamps.

Please bring in your donations of Cereal and Mac-N-Cheese
Thank you for your generous donations.
Pray at every opportunity in the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:18)

This list is prepared each Thursday morning. Please notify the office of names to be included.

Continue to pray for those who remain on our prayer list:

Ashley Andresen (Katie’s daughter), Maryann Backstrom (member), Kevin Behrens (Brian’s son), Camille and Barbara (friends of the congregation), Paul Burgess (member), Paige Burkeholder & Family (Melissa Terc’s sister & family), Regina Conzelmann (member), Ellen Correll and family (OFC Financial Secretary), Kerry Degnan (member), Joy Eipel (Mark Mandrakos’ mother), Lee & Gail Forker (Melissa Terc’s parents), family of Michael Giangrasso (former member),
Ed & Patricia Gunthner (Mark Gunthner’s parents), Dave and Elise Haddock (members),
Betty Hasteadt (member), Janet and Bill Higby (former OFC members), Pat Horner (member), Clarissa Jost (member), Wendy Kennedy (Peter Storey’s sister),
Priscilla McGuire (member), Kim Myers (member), Emily (Porter) Posillico (member),
Robert and Cindy Raynor (Brett’s parents), Rebecca Raynor (Brett’s sister), Carol Saenger (member), Winifred Slater (member), Tom Stewart (friend of the congregation),
Daphne Storey (member), Ruth Terc (John Terc’s mother), Brad Thayer (former member), family of Thorton Vandersall (former member), Ed Williams (member),
Grace Youngquist (member).

—Names on our prayer list will remain for a month. If you wish to have a name remain on the list, kindly contact the Church Office.

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Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Youth Ministry Update

Meet and welcome Old First’s new interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries.

Tina Cody is absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Old First Church community as the Interim Youth Ministries Coordinator this spring and summer season. Tina grew up in Cold Spring Harbor where she attended Cold Spring Harbor High School and Brookville Reformed Church. From a young age, Tina was passionate about theatre, music, and the arts and loved voice lessons with Diane Starost. When she was thirteen, she joined a choral group and found herself sitting next to Katie Thatcher (James’ younger sister) and from that day on, the two were inseparable. The pair continues to sing together and remain great friends.

Since graduating from Bucknell University in 2012, Tina has continued to work in many cities merging her passion for the arts along with her love for children. She worked as a substitute teacher, after school coordinator, and founded her own summer camp in rural Pennsylvania. She is currently preparing for graduate work in the fall where she will continue to study her passion of theatre education for young people. She is hoping to use her energy and passion with the Old First kids and teens to explore, play, and serve the community together!

If you have any questions, concerns, (or ideas!) feel free to contact Tina directly: tina.m.cody@gmail.com She would love to hear from you!

New Members’ Class on March 13th, Noon, at the Manse

Interested in learning more about membership at Old First? Then this is the class for you! Come for discussion and brunch on March 13. New members will be received into membership on a later Sunday.

Please R.S.V.P to Rev. Anne, annestewartmiller@comcast.net Leslie Schult, leslieschult@aol.com, or the church office by Thursday, March 10th.
Holy Week

**Sunday March 20, Palm Sunday at 10am**
Children’s Processional, Choirs, Palms
-One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received-

**Thursday, March 24 at 7:30pm**
Maundy Thursday Service
*A new Cantata, “Lamentations of the Lamb” will be performed by the Sanctuary Choir*

**Friday, March 25 at 12 Noon**
Good Friday Service

**Saturday, March 26 at 6:30 pm**
Easter Vigil
Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow
95 Old Country Road, Melville
-Look for the hallway flyer-

**Easter Services at 9:00 & 11am**
Special Worship Bags for Children in Worship
*He has risen! He has risen, indeed!*

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**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

The Church School children completed their first mission project for this year by collecting $116.00 for Long Island Cares. Great job everyone!

Thanks to everyone for making our first “Soaper Bowl Sunday” such a success! We were able to collect a tremendous amount of soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, body gel and other items to donate to the Community Food Council. They were very appreciative!

Mark your calendars:

- **March 20th** – Palm Sunday – is our annual Easter Egg Hunt and it will be held for children through 4th grade. Bring bring a basket.
- **March 27th** – Easter Sunday – no Church School
- **August** – Vacation Bible School – this year’s theme is “Living Water” and will be held towards the end of the month. Check for more information in future issues of the Weathervane and in the Sunday bulletins.

*Bob and Pat Miller and Kerry Degnan*
OFC BOOK CLUB


Join us when you can (running Sundays at 11:15 am after service) for this wonderful, in-depth study of the book of Ephesians and what Paul has to say about our relationship with Christ, our relationship as “The Church” together in one body, and how to deal with the idea of “Spiritual Warfare.” Our next discussion will be March 6th. We will be reviewing Chapters 6, 7, and 10. Please come prepared with chapters read ahead of time!

Work-study books for this series are available currently for $5 in the OFC office. Questions? Contact Anne Gunthner.

OFC Movie Night

“The Spitfire Grill”

NEW DATE!!!!
Friday, March 4th from 7 to 9 pm
Fiske Room

Redemption is served at The Spitfire Grill. Percy Talbott has had few choices in her twenty-something life but she’ll make the most of this one. She’s chosen Gilead, Maine, as her new home. The town’s Spitfire Grill (run by academy award winner actress Ellen Burstyn) has offered her a second chance. Percy has been in prison for five years and now she has a chance to make a new life. This movie is not to be missed! (A 1996 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award winner)

Please contact Anne Gunthner if you plan to attend and need a ride!

The beautiful Easter flowers which decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday have a dual purpose. Not only do they symbolize God’s promise of rebirth, but they enable us to share this joyous spirit with the sick and homebound among our church family.

If you would like to provide flowers for these purposes, please fill out the form below and send it to:

Presbyterian Women
Old First Church
125 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743

The cost of purchasing an Easter flower is $15 per plant. Please indicate how many plants you want to donate, and indicate whether you would care to bring your lily home with you or would like to donate it to the church for distribution to our infirm church members.

All requests must be in by Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016. No late orders, please.

We would like to thank all those who contribute to making our sanctuary a place of beauty and spiritual joy for Easter Sunday.

Heather Tucker (631-834-6014)

Number of Plants: ___________ Total Cost: ___________

Purchased Easter plants may be picked up after the second service

Presented in loving memory of: _________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

By: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

(Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women, Old First Church. To ensure correctness, please double check forms and be sure they are received by March 20)
Coordinating Team Meeting
Moderator: Susan Oehrig (718-499-6138)
email: PresbyterianWomen@OldFirstChurchHuntington.org
PW Board meeting in February
will be Tuesday, March 1st in the Fiske Room
Refreshments at 9:30am, Meeting begins at 10:00am

Circle 1 (Evening Circle)
Leader: Priscilla Jahier (351-4941)
February Meeting will be
Monday, March 21, at 7:30pm
Come learn how to make delicious healthy Vegan, gluten-free food and raw desserts from Heidi and Ivan, founders of Heidi’s Health Kitchen. Priscilla Jahier is leader.

Circle 3 Bible Study
Co-leaders: Holly Baptista (757-0719) and Gloria Burgess (424-5168),
Lucy Fetterolf (co-leader emerita)
Meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 12:30pm in the Fiske Room
Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8th, 2016
We will continue Bible Study of “Come to the Waters” studying chapter 7.
All are welcome!

Circle 4 Quilting
Leader: Asenath Fuchs (692-4139)
Thursday Mornings at 9:30am in Room 101
All are welcome. No experience necessary.
Also, any unwanted embroidery floss would be greatly appreciated for the use of shoulder cover ties.

Circle 6 Crafts—Holiday Shoppe
Leader: Kris Colbert (271-4072)
Fridays, 9:45am in the Craft Room.

Presbyterian Women Giving: If you would like to contribute to the missions that Presbyterian Women support, you may use the envelopes in the pews. Please mark “PW” on the envelope and on your check -make check payable to the “Presbyterian Women”. With our blessings and thanks, PW of Old First Church.

DEACONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
“He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast”
Proverbs 15:15

Sunday, March 20, 2016
This event raises money to support the Thanksgiving baskets.
Help us help local families in need by coming to the delicious Breakfast with your fellow parishioners.
Tickets will be on Sale in Parish Hall after Church on Sunday, March 6, Sunday, March 13, and on the day of the Breakfast, March 20
$8 adult, $6 youth ($25 max per family)
Join us for good food and fellowship!
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<td>9:30-11a</td>
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<td>9:15-10:15a Gentle Bends</td>
<td>9:30a PW C-4 Quilting</td>
<td>9:30a Al Anon</td>
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<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Prayers</td>
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<td>Worship w/Kids &amp; Youth chrs.</td>
<td>7p Deacons</td>
<td>5-7p Youth Club</td>
<td>5-9:30p Giant Steps</td>
<td>8p Choir Rehearsal</td>
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**Transfiguration of the Lord**

| 9:30a | Prayers | 11a-4p Thrift Store | 9:15-10:15a Gentle Bends | 9:30a PW C-4 Quilting |
| 10a   | Communion Worship | 1p AA | 5:53p Kids’ Choir | 11a-4p Thrift Store |
| 10:20a | Church School | 7p Deacons | 5-7p Youth Club | 5-9:30p Giant Steps |
| 11:15a | Bible/Book Study | 7:15p AA | 5:30-6p Youth Choir | 8p Choir Rehearsal |
| 11:15a | Thrift Store Meeting | 7:30p BS Troop 32 | 7:30p BS Troop 32 | |
| 6:45p | AA | 9:30 | 9:15 | 9:30 | 9:30 | |

**Daylight savings time begins**

| 9:30a | Prayers | 11a-4p Thrift Store | 9:15-10:15a Gentle Bends | 9:30a PW C-4 Quilting |
| 10a   | Worship | 1:00p AA | 5:53p Kids’ Choir | 11a-4p Thrift Store |
| 10:20a | Church School | 7p Session | 5-7p Youth Club | 5-9:30p Giant Steps |
| 12:00p | New Member Class | 9:15 | 9:30 | 9:30 | 9:30 | |
| 6:45p | AA | 7:30p NA | 7:30p NA | 7:30p NA | 7:30p | |

**Palm Sunday**

| 9:30a | Prayers | 11a-4p Thrift Store | 9:15-10:15a Gentle Bends | Maundy Thursday |
| 10a   | Worship w/Kids’&Youth Chrs. | 1:00p AA | 5:53p Kids’ Choir | Good Friday |
| 10:20a | Church School | 7p Session | 5-7p Youth Club | 11a-4p Thrift Store |
| 11:00a | Deacons Pancake Breakfast | 7:15 | 7:30p BS Troop 32 |
| 11:00a | Easter Egg Hunt | 5:30-6p Youth Choir | 7:30p Worship Service | 12:00p Worship Service |
| 6:45p | AA | 7:30p WS Troop 32 | |

**Easter Sunday**

| 9a   | Worship | 11a-4p Thrift Store | 9:30a PW C-4 Quilting |
| 11a   | Worship | 1:00p AA | 11a-4p Thrift Store |
| 6:45p | AA | 9:30a | 9:30 | 9:30 | 9:45a Crafts | 11a-4p Thrift Store |

**Easter Monday Holiday**

| 9:30a | Al Anon | |
| 9:45a | Crafts | |
| 11a-4p | Thrift Store | |

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

| April 1 | April 2 |

| 6:30p Easter Vigil | 6:30p Easter Vigil |
| @Sweet Hollow | @Sweet Hollow |