As we get closer to Easter, here’s a question: What is the worst thing you’ve ever done – or not done? What in your life do you regret most bitterly? What memory brings back all the feelings of shame and guilt?

I ask, not because I’m personally interested in things you’d just as soon forget – I’m really not concerned with what you’ve done wrong or failed to do in your life. I do care whether or not you know that God forgives you for those things. I want you to know God’s forgiveness for yourself, and until you’ve remembered whatever you’ve been trying to forget, you’ll never know what I’m talking about. Of all of the experiences of Lent, I want forgiveness for you and for all of us.

On the cross, as Jesus is tortured, humiliated, and excruciatingly killed, he asks God to forgive those who inflicted all of it. Without knowing all of the painful details, we cannot marvel at the depth of his request. In the same way, without being honest with ourselves about our own mistakes or failures – times we have hurt others, been careless with creation, or even hurt ourselves – we miss out personally on the power of forgiveness for ourselves. It’s also hard to forgive others when you don’t know how it feels to be forgiven yourself. If you think you’ve never done anything wrong, it’s easy to become self-righteous with those who do wrong to you. Remembering that I have been forgiven myself – and for some pretty awful things – opens the door for me to forgive others as I have been forgiven.

So, now that you’ve remembered your worst thing, as well as the depths of God’s forgiveness in Jesus’s prayer on the cross, think of the worst thing that has happened to you. Maybe you were bullied as a child. Perhaps a co-worker or family member was cruel, or the one person you thought you could trust let you down in a way that could never be

Laura Cunningham will be preaching for the month of April.

April 6: Liturgist: Jim Uleman; Ushers: Robert Rockefeller and Will Ramsey; Communion Servers: Martha Miller, Marge Hoermann, Jim and Judy Waters
April 13, Palm Sunday: Liturgist: Josh Way; Ushers: Mary Lee Wainwright and Katy Sanchez
April 20, Easter Sunday: Liturgist: Robert Rockefeller; Ushers: Mary Lee Wainwright and Katy Sanchez
April 27: Liturgist: Carol Boyatsis; Ushers: Ginny Ramsey

Designated Deacon for April is Nancy Miller
From the Editor

Did you know that March 4th was the official opening of the squirrel mating season in Rockland County? I know this for a fact, since I witnessed a most amazing spectacle at 8 AM that day!

I glanced out my living room window that morning to see a group of 20 or 30 squirrels sprinting through the trees in my front yard. They raced from branch to branch, and tree to tree, all in a row at top speed. It had the appearance of an amusement park roller coaster gone berserk. Up one tree, down another, leaping from tree to tree— incredible gymnastics.

They raced at top speed leaping from one branch to another, hanging off tiny branches by one claw, and leaping from tree to lilac bush and back up onto the trees—all in a row, and all at top speed. It was an amazing sight. They shot around a loop of trees—up, down, across—with incredible accuracy. I don’t know whether the lead squirrel was an extremely attractive lady or whether this was just a general chase to see who got whom—but the show went on for about 20 minutes. Then, all of a sudden, they all disappeared.

And that was the end of the show. Since then I’ve seen a squirrel here and there in the yard, but never a gathering like that morning. Life’s little special moments!

Peace,
Barbara

Nauraushaun Notes

The Book Group

Book Group will meet at noon on Wednesday, April 2, at noon at Mia Cucina in Blauvelt. April’s selection is The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe. Please let the church office know by Monday, March 31, if you are coming, so lunch reservations can be made. As always, everyone is invited to ‘join the club.’

Music, Music, Music

All kinds of special music is coming up! It’s a bit early to publish specifics, but Shereen Way is working on a couple of special vocal pieces, Lise Chanin is working on some interesting instrumental pieces, Juli Schaefer and her niece Marisa are practicing a duet, Suzanne Burgio and Karen Schmidt will have a surprise for Palm Sunday and Jose will be back with his trumpet to celebrate Easter. Come every Sunday to hear musical surprises!

Womens’ Association Meetings

Morning Circle: Tuesday, April 8, at 9:30 AM.
Noon Circle: Wednesday, April 9, at 11:30 AM
Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, at 9:30 AM
All meetings are in the church parlor. Please contact Carol Boyatsis (845-623-3023) or Adele Schnell (845-735-4281) for further information.

On Easter Sunday, Nauraushaun will collect this offering. Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing. Your generous gifts to this Special Offering help provide relief those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.
Holy Week at Nauraushaun

Palm Sunday, April 13 - Worship 10 AM
Maundy Thursday, April 17 - Worship 6 PM, light supper included
Good Friday, April 18 - Worship 7:30 PM
Combined Service with Germonds Presbyterian at Nauraushaun
Easter Sunday, April 20 - Worship and Children’s Activities 10 AM

Women’s Association News

Want to clean out your house and make your Fortune?? The WA Annual Yard Sale will be on Saturday, May 10, from 9 AM until 2 PM. Tables are $25 for a long table, and $15 for a card table. There will also be refreshments and hot dogs available, as well as a baked goods sale. Please call Adele Schnell (845-735-4281) or Carol Boyatsis (845-623-3023) if you would like to reserve a table.

WA is sponsoring a Fall Outing on Wednesday, October 22, at 10:30 AM, at the Westchester Dinner Theatre for everyone in the church. The show will be South Pacific, and the cost will be $60 per person, which includes the show, a served lunch and transportation. A $15 per person deposit is due by early April. Seating is limited. We will be carpooling from church (drivers will be reimbursed for bridge tolls). Please contact Carol Boyatsis or Adele Schnell.
Session Notes

At its March 18 meeting, the Session continued exploring options for Nauraushaun Church’s long-term future and defining what should be the criteria/guidelines as we explore collaboration or partnership with nearby churches.

The discussion included two reports, one from an informal meeting between two Nauraushaun representatives, Jim Waters and Dotty Goren, with the pastor of the United Church of Spring Valley, Rev. Rob Williams. The other was a report from a four-church meeting held earlier in the month at Greenbush Church with representatives of the Germonds, Greenbush, Nauraushaun and Palisades congregations and Hudson River Presbytery. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the future presence of the denomination in Southern Orangetown. Nauraushaun representatives were Kathleen Fahmi, Carol Dornbush and Rev. Cunningham.

Church receipts through February are 14% of the 2014 budget, while operating expenses alone were 31% of budget. Utility bills totaled more than $8,000 in two months, driven by a harsh winter and repeated snow plowing and complicated by thermostats being raised and left on well beyond meeting times so that we’re heating a large building when it is empty. Building users are being contacted, and the Stewardship Ministry is installing thermostats that can be more closely programmed to actual use.

Carol Dornbush, Clerk of Session

Helping Hands

Following the resignation of Jean-Max Naissant, Helping Hands is happy to introduce our new Director of Program Services, Ya’el Williams. Ya’el comes to us with much experience in not-for-profit agencies and has quickly streamlined the Outreach Center and taken over the Safe Haven Program. If you come to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the United Church of Spring Valley on April 13, at 6 PM, you will have the opportunity to meet him.

Sheltering season will end on April 2. We have sheltered a record number of men and women since mid-November, as high as 46 one night, but steadily in the high 30’s and low 40s. Ya’el is determined to get as many of our guests as possible trained and into jobs and housing. That was his specialty in his former position.

Donations of seasonally appropriate clothing suitable for outdoor wear, travel toiletries, socks, and underwear are always needed and welcomed.

NPC Food Donations

Every communion Sunday our church comes together to give non-perishable food items and others products requested by recipients. Nauraushaun has taken up a collection which on designated days, is donated to St. Stephens Food Bank, where there is a tremendous program set up to give bags of predetermined materials to designated families, with dozens of local families participating.

From our very scientific research, we’ve concluded that each bag of food we donated is around 8 lbs. This means that the 10 bags from January, the 12 bags from February and the 17 bags donated from March sum to a grand total of 39 bags or 312 lbs! With a quarterly sum of this much, we’re well on our way to 1000 lbs. for 2014!

Submitted by Josie Miller

Quote of the Month

To make a difference in someone’s life, you don’t have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care enough and BE THERE.

Submitted by Josie Miller
Morning Music Club Concert

On Wednesday, April 9, at 10:30 AM, the Morning Music Club will present City Winds Trio, with Crispian Fordham, flute, Meredyth Coleman, Oboe, and Jack Bender, Piano, in the Nauraushaun Sanctuary. Crispian Fordham holds a Master’s degree from Mannes College of Music and has performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Meredyth Coleman has performed with the Emerson String Quartet and under conductors such as Kurt Mazur and Maxi Shostakovich. Jack Bender composed the score for ‘Midnight Madness” in 2008 at the Alvin Ailey Theater.

Admission is free. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Mrs. Fleming’s Irish Soda Bread courtesy of Diane Coiro

3 ½ C all-purpose flour
½ C sugar
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 large eggs, beaten
1 pint sour cream
1 cup dark raisins
2 teaspoons caraway seeds

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour a round 8” round cake pan.
Mix together the flour, sugar, salt, baking soda, and baking powder. Fold in the eggs and sour cream. Add the raisins and caraway seeds. Do not overbeat.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Smooth the surface and use a knife to cut a cross on the top of the dough. Bake for about 1 hour, or until the loaf sounds hollow when tapped on the bottom. Remove from pan and cool on a wire rack.

IN CELEBRATION OF

As many of you know, Tom Wainwright has announced that he plans to retire as the Organist for Germonds Presbyterian at the end of June this year. Germonds is holding a couple of events of appreciation to celebrate Tom’s ministry. His friends at Nauraushaun are invited to join these as well:

1) **Sunday, May 18, 1:00 PM** – An appreciation luncheon for Tom will be held at Madeline’s Petit Paris in Northvale, NJ. The cost of the luncheon is $35 per person. Contact Marion Stefanoff in the Germonds church office (845-623-2120) to reserve a place for you at the luncheon, as space is limited. Final payment for the luncheon is due to the Germonds church office by Sunday, May 4 (two weeks prior).

2) **Sunday, June 8, 2:00 p.m.** – An organ concert will be given by Stewart Holmes in the Germonds sanctuary. This will be a benefit concert in Tom’s honor, to raise money for Helping Hands of Rockland County, an organization which is dear to Tom’s heart and to the mission of both Germonds and Nauraushaun. Spread the word about this recital!
Church Mouse

--Easter Flowers: Orders for Easter flowers must be given to the church office no later than **Sunday, April 6**, with your check. There is a choice of tulips or daffodils for $10 each. (Tulips can be red, pink or white). Please specify clearly to whom the flowers are in honor of or in memory of.

--A reminder to bring easy to eat fruit each Sunday (such as bananas or individual fruit cups) for the Spring Valley Breakfast Program.

--A reminder that **April 6** is Communion Sunday, so bring non-perishable food donations, as well as diapers, for the St. Stephen’s Food Cupboard to place by the communion table.

--Keep watching the chancel for beautiful Easter artwork from some of our talented artisans!

--The Sparkill and Nanuet Senior Clubs are sponsoring a bus trip to Lancaster, PA, on **June 5-6**, featuring a performance of *Moses*, a visit to Kitchen Kettle Village, transportation, overnight at a hotel, all meals, tips, and taxes. Cost is $199 per person. Call Carol Boyatsis (845-623-3023) if you are interested in participating.

**Concerns of the Church**

--Our love and concern are with those who cannot be with us for Sunday worship: Marge Puzziferri, Jackie Glaessgen and Maggie Veraja.

--Our sympathy and prayers go out to Don and Jean Ellis, former long-time members of Nauraushaun, on the loss of their son, Jim, who died of cancer this past month.

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**April Birthdays**

- April 3  Denise Ainsworth
- April 14  Nancy Rockefeller
- April 15  Deborah Warburton
- April 16  MiMi Manigar
- April 16  C.C. Manigar
- April 21  Don Albright
- April 21  Steve Chauncey
- April 28  Donald Albright
- April 28  Josie Renee Miller
- April 30  John Burgio

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**April Anniversaries**

- April 5  Al & Evelyn Klingler
- April 27  Al & Dotty Goren

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*Pastor’s column from p.1*

fixed. You may be angry at God for a truly devastating situation or blame yourself for a bad choice. How might you pray for God’s help in practicing forgiveness?

This Lent, confident that God forgives you, may you also forgive, and may the crux of forgiveness be your doorway to the joy of Easter resurrection.

In Christ, Laura

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*A reminder that we are a fragrance-free church. For the sake of the health of all people, please refrain from wearing fragrances such as cologne aftershave, or scented lotion to worship.*
## April 2014

**Nuraushaun Presbyterian Church**

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