

# THE TIDINGS

The Shelter Island Presbyterian Church Newsletter

## December Potluck

Don't forget to put our next potluck on your calendar! We will join together to have food, fun, and fellowship immediately after the 10:30 A.M. worship service on Sunday, December 7th.

## Midweek Prayer Gatherings in Advent

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays and join us for a casual, 30-minute prayer gathering at 5:00 P.M. each Tuesday in the season of Advent. We will gather in the sanctuary to pray, meditate, and read scripture together to prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ! Join us on the following Tuesdays in December: 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

## Joint Deacons/ Session Meeting

Our annual joint meeting of the Deacons and the Session will be Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 P.M.

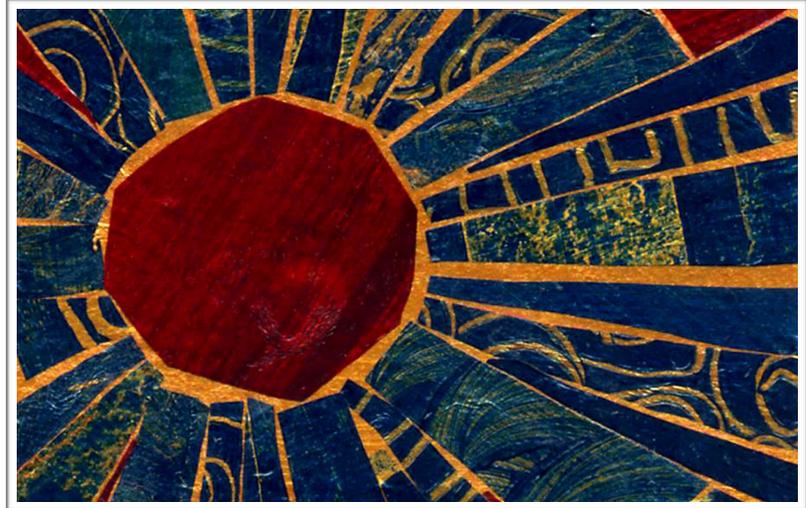


Photo credit: Jan Richardson, "Magnificat"

## Awaiting God-With-Us

For most of us, when we hear the phrase "New Year," we tend to think of January 1st. However, the beginning of the *church* year begins each year with the season of Advent. Each and every year, the season of Advent begins four Sundays prior to Christmas Day and marks a period in which we wait, watch, and wonder as we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ, the very presence of God amongst us! December is a very busy month in the life of Shelter Island Presbyterian Church so please make sure to check out the calendar on page 4 for information regarding what to expect in this exciting season of fun, fellowship, and worship!





## Service of Hope and Healing

The twinkling lights and merry songs of Christmas can, in cruel contrast, deepen the darkness and gloom felt by those struggling with grief, depression, or illness. Therefore, we will have a special time of worship to offer comfort, healing, and hope. This service will feature readings from the book of Psalms that give voice to our feelings of pain, loss, and the hope we cling to in the midst of despair. Finally, we will gather at the Lord's Table to partake in communion to receive the healing grace of God-with-us. This worship service is open to the entire community and all are welcome to the Table!

### What you need to know

When: Wednesday, December 17th at 5:00 P.M.

Where: Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

## From Stephen's Desk

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Advent is again upon us and it is time to hear that voice in the wilderness calling us to "prepare the way of the Lord!" This voice, of course, comes from the mouth of John the Baptist (taking cue from the book of Isaiah). A lesser known fact is that John the Baptist has been called many things depending on who you ask. A dear friend of mine has an extensive collection of Bibles dating back many hundreds of years. Once, he shared with me some of the different designations given to "John the Baptist" throughout the years. For example, one bible has called him "John the Dipper." Still another calls him "John the Submerser." My personal favorite, however, is a particular bible that refers to him as "John the Plunger!"

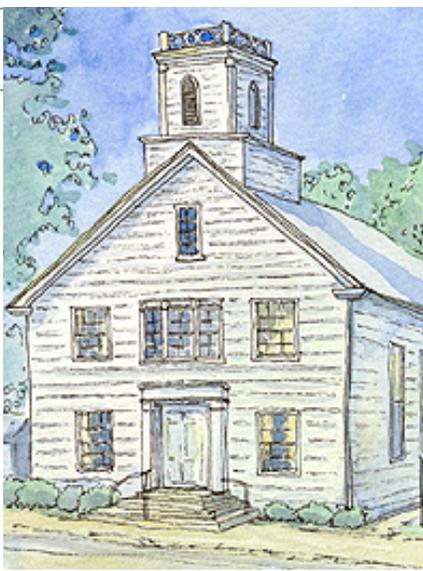


No matter what you may choose to call John the Baptist, his purpose is still the same: to point to the coming Christ. It is our job to mimic John the Baptist/Dipper/Plunger and to find ways in our own lives to point to the coming Christ in the weeks to come. As we continue to prepare for the coming of "the one who is more powerful than us" (Mark 1:7), here are some suggestions of ways that we might point to Christ.

- Take a few minutes to share with your children/family the story of Christmas. A great resource is the *Children of God Story Bible* by Desmond Tutu.
- Write down on a piece of paper the things that you hope God will do in your life and in the lives of those around you. Share that list with a close friend or family member.
- Find one person who works at a local business here on the island that you don't know and introduce yourself. Get to know their name and give them a little extra kindness.
- Begin your day with a brief scripture devotional and share with a coworker or friend.
- Take a few minutes to call or visit with someone you know who has lost a loved one in the past year. Consider inviting them to come with you to the Service of Hope and Healing here at the church on Wednesday, December 17th at 5:00 P.M.

What things would you add to this list?

Joyfully yours,  
Stephen



## Contact Info

### Church Address

32 North Ferry Road (P.O. 612)  
Shelter Island, New York 11964

### Church Web Address

[www.sipchurch.org](http://www.sipchurch.org)

### Church Phone Number

(631)749-0805

### Follow SIPC on Twitter

@ShelterIslandPC

### Follow Pastor Stephen on Twitter

@stephenmfearing

### Pastor Stephen's Cell

(404)823-5926

### Pastor Stephen's Website

[www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)

### Revised Common Lectionary

[lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu)

## Update on 2015 Stewardship Campaign

Many thanks to everyone who pledged their financial support to the ministries of SIPC! Your dollars are crucial in allowing us to be inwardly strong while at the same time being outwardly focused! 82% of this congregation pledged their financial support to raise a total \$107,333.00.

Also, a huge thanks goes out to our 2015 Stewardship Committee. The next time you see one of the following committee members, make sure to thank them for the diligent work they did over the past several months: Clarissa Tybaert, Heather Reylek, Chris Lewis, Laura Nelsen, Karen Tudor, Gary Kagawa, Keith Dickerson, Mark Switzer, and Charlotte Switzer.

## A Huge Thank You!

If you were unable to attend church on Sunday, November 16th, you missed a good one! It was quite a day for SI Presbyterian Church—over 80 people were in attendance and there was a lot of celebrating going on!

We introduced our new hymnal, *Glory to God*, which was given as a gift from the Betty Kontje Estate. Her family was present and acknowledged during the dedication of these beautiful hymnals. The music throughout the service was terrific—including a bluegrass piece performed by Heather Reylek, John and Penny Kerr and Stephen Fearing. Linda and the Choir did a phenomenal job throughout the service with anthems and various hymns. The energy was high!

After the service, a delicious luncheon was prepared and served by the Stewardship Committee—Clarissa Tybarert, Mark & Charlotte Switzer, Chris Lewis. Karen Tudor, Heather Reylek, Keith Dickerson, Laura Nelson, & Gary Kagawa. The fellowship hall was inviting—all we had to do was sit down. The meal, a beef shepherd's pie, salad and sliced bread was delicious followed by homemade cookies with ice cream.

I am personally grateful for this hard-working committee. They met weekly to formulate a stewardship drive with an 82% return thus far. Throughout the drive, they scheduled speakers each week that were encouraging, informative and had a strong belief in SIP Church's ministry.

We certainly have lots to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,  
Ellen Gove

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## Upcoming Events @ShelterIslandPC

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- Sunday, December 7th
  - 10:30 A.M. | Worship
  - 11:30 A.M. | Potluck Luncheon
  - 12:30 A.M. | PresbyBells Rehearsal
- Tuesday, December 9th
  - 5:00 P.M. | Midweek Prayer Gathering
  - 7:00 P.M. | Community Chorus Rehearsal
- Saturday, December 13th | 10:00 A.M. | Community Chorus Rehearsal
- Sunday, December 14th
  - 10:30 A.M. | Worship
  - 11:30 A.M. | PresbyBells Rehearsal
  - 3:00 P.M. | Community Choir Christmas Concert
- Tuesday, December 16th
  - 5:00 P.M. | Midweek Prayer Gathering
  - 6:00 P.M. | Combined meeting of the Diaconate & Session
- Wednesday, December 17th | 5:00 P.M. | Service of Hope and Healing
- Sunday, December 21st
  - 10:30 A.M. | Worship
  - 3:00 P.M. | Christmas Reading Program
- Tuesday, December 23 | 5:00 P.M. | Midweek Prayer Gathering
- Wednesday, December 24th (***Christmas Eve***)
  - 5:00 P.M. | Family Christmas Service
  - 10:00 P.M. | Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
- Sunday, December 28th | 10:30 A.M. | Worship

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## Friendly Reminder: 2015 Contact Information Form Due December 14th

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Those of you who are on our mailing list should have received a contact information form recently for the purpose of collecting information for our updated 2015 SIPC Church Directory. For those of you who have already filled out the form, thank you! If you have not done so yet, please fill out the form for you and your household and turn it in to Karen Tudor by Sunday, December 14th. If you did not receive your form or have misplaced it, you can download a pdf copy from [www.sipchurch.org](http://www.sipchurch.org) by clicking the “About Us” tab and then selecting “Documents.”

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## Election of Church Officers for 2015

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The Congregational Nominating Committee (Cara Loriz, Bill Hansen, Janet Hansen, Lee Anne Bastible, & Betsy Gibbs) is hard at work prayerfully considering who is being called to serve as leaders of this congregation. They need your help! The following positions are in need of being filled:

- Three ruling elders to serve a three year term on the Session (Class of 2017)
- Three deacons to serve a three year term on the Diaconate (Class of 2017)
- Three at-large members (meaning not currently serving as an elder or deacon) to serve a one year term on the Congregational Nominating Committee.

If you would like to nominate anyone for the above positions, please let Cara Loriz (the chair of the CNC) know as soon as possible. Thanks!

# Service of Hope and Healing 12/17/14

The twinkling lights and merry songs of Christmas can, in cruel contrast, deepen the darkness and gloom felt by those struggling with grief, depression, or illness. For this reason, we will have a special time of worship to offer comfort, healing, and hope. This service will feature readings from the book of Psalms that give voice to our feelings of pain, loss, and the hope we cling to in the midst of despair. Finally, we will gather at the Lord's Table to partake in communion to receive the healing grace of God-with-us. This worship service is open to the entire community and all are welcome to the Table!



**5:00 P.M. | Sanctuary**

**Shelter Island Presbyterian Church  
32 N. Ferry Rd. | Shelter Island, NY | 11964  
[www.sipchurch.org](http://www.sipchurch.org) | (631)749-0805**

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