



THE OPEN DOOR

The Briarcliff Congregational Church
Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510 P.O. Box 290 914-941-4368

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“Behold I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.”

Revelation 3:8

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SAVE THESE DATES:

JANUARY

3	Epiphany/Pageant/Brunch
7	Women’s Society/Degree
23	Savor the Flavor
25	Church Council

Dear Good People of Briarcliff Church,

I know I have passed Howard Thurman’s “The Work of Christmas” to you before ~ maybe even in every January *Open Door* since I’ve served as pastor here! Even so, the message is so good and so timely and so important, I can’t resist another go ‘round:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and the princes are back home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers,
 To make music in the heart.*

We’ve kept Advent and we’ve celebrated Christmas at BCC. It’s now time for Epiphany, the season when we’re especially mindful of the holy being manifest in the mundane. Thurman reminds us that seeking and serving Christ among the humble, among whom Bethlehem’s babe was born, is our calling. May the New Year find us re-dedicating ourselves and our church to this vocation.

Wishing us all a peaceful, prosperous, healthy and faithful 2010,

The Rev’d Dr. Bonnie Rosborough, Pastor

P.S. Thank you to EVERYONE in our parish who helped make Advent~Christmas~Epiphany 2009 such a wonderful time. From the Women’s Society greening the church early in December to those who worked with the youngsters on the Epiphany Pageant in January, oodles of us pitched in to do our bit and more. We all were made richer for it. When I count my blessings, great portions are inscribed with your names! I thank God for each and all who are Christ’s body in this church. And, I thank you, too.

CONTACT US AT:

Pastor@briarcliffchurch.org
church-office@briarcliffchurch.org

2010 YOUTH MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Preparations for the 2010 Mission Trip to New Orleans are well under way. We have a group of seventeen youth and thirteen adults from 4 churches scheduled to go for the 3rd week of February 2010, departing Sunday, February 14th and returning Saturday, February 20th. BCC youth and adults make up the majority of the volunteers:

BCC Youth

1. John Alecci
2. Amelia Clements
3. Jason Hickey
4. Maggie Cavanaugh
5. Natalie Mackintosh
6. Andrew Nichols
7. Patrick Nichols
8. Emily Prentiss
9. Carly Savino

BCC Adults

1. Donnie Alecci
2. Peter Clements
3. Dave Gasparik
4. Barbara Gasparik
5. Amy Moore
6. Cathy Nichols
7. Jim O'Hanlon
8. Tom Ruffing
9. Gae Savino

Fund Raisers for the trip are going great:

Pies for Thanksgiving Pie sales almost doubled from last year! It was a baking extravaganza filling orders for over 200 pies and earning **One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighteen Dollars!!!** Thank you all for your support.

Savor the Flavor Tickets are on sale now for an evening of Cajun cuisine and music with a mission! Buy your tickets for Saturday night, January 23rd. This year's band is the VOODOUES playing New Orleans soul, blues, boogie woogie and honky tonk. Check out their website at: <http://www.thevoodudes.com>. There will be dining, music, dancing, a raffle, a silent auction ... a great evening for all ages – so please plan to come.

Superbowl Party Food Superbowl Sunday is February 7th this year. Plan on fare for your feast that day from Donnie and the Mission Trip Kitchen. Menus and Order Forms are available in Beebe Hall after church.

Contributions to Support the Trip Many thanks to the BCC Benevolence Committee for a generous donation of \$1,500 towards our fundraising goal of \$15,000 for this year's trip. Please consider giving to support this volunteer effort. For the last two years contributions from members and friends of BCC have been a

tremendous help in providing scholarships to volunteers who could not otherwise have gone – as well as bringing down the out-of-pocket cost of volunteering for all participants. Donations in support of the trip can be placed in the offering on Sunday, mailed to the church office or given to Peter or one of the youth. Please make out all checks to "B.C.C." and indicate "Mission Trip" in the memo line.

Thank you all for your support of our youth in this important endeavor.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

The Church Council met on November 23 and made substantive progress on moving toward reaching a decision on two ongoing issues. Financing questions on the kitchen project have been resolved and we can anticipate that the renovation of our 50+ year old kitchen will start after the rummage sale. The Kitchen Committee will explain this in more detail in their report.

A second issue that has been discussed informally for the past year or so is our long standing practice of prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages on church premises. I use the term "practice" deliberately. We cannot find any written policy on this point and, contrary to legend, it is not prohibited in Walter Law's gift of the property to the Church. In September an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Donnie Alecci, Joan Austin, Joan Beicke, Carol Mickel, Henrietta Porter, and Bonnie Rosborough was appointed by the Church Council to study this topic. The Committee has recommended that a change in this practice be considered. The Church Council voted unanimously to move the proposal to the next stage, an informational meeting and then a vote by the members of the congregation. The report of the ad hoc committee follows.

Proposal for Permitting the use of Alcoholic Beverages on Church Property

Regulations

1. Only beer and wine may be served on church property.
2. Alcoholic beverages may only be consumed indoors.
3. All state regulations on serving alcohol must be observed.

4. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold on church property.
5. No alcoholic beverages may be stored on church property.
6. Empty beer or wine bottles, cans, or boxes must be removed from church property immediately following the event.
7. If a church member or a non-member wishes to use church facilities for a private event and serve beer or wine, they must receive permission to do so from the Board of Trustees. This would be part of the application process for facilities use. The Board of Trustees has the right to deny such permission without giving reasons for their decision.
8. If someone outside the church wishes to use the site and serve beer or wine, they may be asked to cover the cost of a supervisor appointed by the church.
9. Approval of the Board of Trustees is not required if alcoholic beverages are to be served at a church-sponsored event, for example, one put on by a BCC board or committee.

The following process will be used to reach a decision as to whether or not to change existing practice regarding the use of alcohol on church property:

1. The Ad Hoc Committee will present this proposal to the Church Council for discussion. If a majority of the Church Council accepts the proposal (they may modify it) it will be presented to the members of the church for a vote at a Special Church Meeting. It will require a simple majority to pass.
2. The congregation will be invited to an informational meeting hosted by the committee to discuss the proposal prior to the vote.
3. Within twelve months following adoption of a change in practice, the Church Council will discuss this issue again and decide whether or not to continue to permit use of alcohol on church property.

Next Steps

There will be an informational meeting on the Meeting will be held the next week, January 17 to vote. I hope that you will all study the report and plan to attend both the January meetings to become informed about the proposal and to express your opinion.

Joan Austin

NOTICE OF CALL

In accordance with Article II of the By-Laws, the Board of Trustees has called a Special Church meeting to be held on Sunday, January 17th, following worship, for the purpose of a vote on the proposal for permitting the use of alcoholic beverages on Church property.

Dated at Briarcliff Manor, January 3, 2010

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

The holiday season is so filled with good cheer and fellowship! Many friends and family members of the church especially enjoyed the Christmas party hosted by Bob and Joan Beicke following the decoration of the sanctuary with greens prepped the previous morning in a Women's Society workshop. Thank you, Bob and Joan, for your warm, gracious and fun hospitality. Bob offered the history of their traditional party. Over twenty-five years ago when they first joined the church, Joan stayed at home with their young lads while Bob came down to the church to help with the greening. There were only six volunteers for that considerable work! This, when the Church boasted twice the membership it has now. Well, Bob knew he had a couple of bottles of wine at home, some beer, and Joan would probably have some snacks. Bob invited everyone over and a tradition was born. The number of guests these days usually exceeds ninety.

Thank you, Carol Mickel and Helen Buerger, for your organizational skills for the greens workshop. Especially delicious thanks go to Helen and Janet Moulton for our soups and to all who brought sandwiches and desserts for our Christmas luncheon.

On a Monday evening, approximately 25 ladies gathered at Joan Austin's home for Holiday Cookie Packing. We brought goodies and circled the laden table as we filled holiday gift bags with a lovingly prepared selection of treats. When the bags were ready, Joan Beicke directed the volunteer assignment of deliveries to those families of the church in particular need of a special visit. Thank you, Joan, for welcoming us to your lovely home for this traditional event. Thanks to all who came bearing cookies.

Lest we forget, we are grateful to everyone who ordered Poinsettias for the sanctuary; you do help beautify our services!

DEGREENING OF THE CHURCH

On Thursday January 7th at 9:30 am in the Eastman Room there will be a short business meeting following the degreening of the church. As there are some heavier tasks, the ladies would so appreciate the strength of some macho men that morning.

Happy New Year!

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

The Briarcliff-Ossining Ministerial Association is again proud to sponsor our local Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration on Monday evening, January 18th at 7:30pm at the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church. The main speaker is the current director of the Stony Point Center, one of the Presbyterian Church USA's national conference centers. He has pioneered a new program which brings together a "Community of Living Traditions," Jews, Christians and Muslims living together in residence, working, studying, praying and learning. Youth choirs from Ossining and Briarcliff will offer their gifts, as well as the Star choir. Refreshments will be served after the service.

You can help us close our very manageable shortfall by making a donation to the BCC kitchen fund - \$5 buys a new floor tile and \$600 buys a new cabinet! Any amount is greatly appreciated, enabling us to build the kitchen fund, avoid depletion of the Capital Projects Fund and invest in the future of BCC. And our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated to the kitchen fund to date!

Kitchen Committee: Donnie Alecci, Mary Alenstein, Helen Buerger, Carol Mickel and Henrietta Porter

PLANNING A SUPERBOWL GET-TOGETHER?



...or do you just like Superbowl Food?! The Youth Group will be russeling up their Superbowl fare as a fundraiser for the 2010 Mission Trip to New Orleans. The selection includes:
Beef & Bean Chili w/the fixins', Cornbread, 7 Layer Taco Dip w/Tostitos, Cruditee w/dip, Teriyaki wings, Hot Wings, Cupcakes and Wedges* by the foot. Order forms will be available in Beebe Hall from the youth group, in your bulletin and ONLINE on the BCC website! Last order date is Sunday, Jan 31st. Your order can be picked up at Beebe Hall on Superbowl Sunday, Feb 7th between 11 and noon. Delivery is available. Thank you in advance for your unwavering support. BCC Youth Group



KITCHEN RENOVATION UPDATE

The much needed, long overdue Parish house kitchen renovation will take place in May/June 2010! Renovation will take about 6 weeks. With an overall budget of roughly \$72,000, we have over \$60,000 in hand with an additional \$6-8,000 committed from Rummage 2010 (separate from the 40% of net profits donated to the general operating budget). Final details are being pinned down with Sunrise Builders of Briarcliff, who will be the general contractor. We look forward to creating an attractive and functional kitchen that we all can enjoy and one that will be more desirable to potential facilities renters.



BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

We have been waiting for the snow; we put in calls to our parking lot snow plower and DAVID GASPARIK got out our new (last year) snow blower. He had to get it tuned up after finding it did not start, and last Sunday he got to try it out on the 5" of light fluffy snow we got during the night. What a joy to arrive for church and see all 1700 feet of our sidewalks cleaned, along with the multiple steps and mini-walks. Many thanks to ROB, KATHY and ANDREW NICHOLS, and DAVID SCHOFIELD who with David Gasparik arrived at church VERY EARLY to have the walkways ready - a big contribution for Christmas Sunday.

Carol Mickel



CELEBRATIONS

BROKEN DREAMS

As children bring their broken toys
 With tears for us to mend,
 I brought my broken dreams to God
 Because He was my Friend.

But instead of leaving Him
 In peace to work alone,
 I hung around and tried to help
 With ways that were my own

At last I snatched them back and cried,
 "How can you be so slow?"
 "My child," He said, "what could I do?
 You never let them go."

Lauretta Burns

Happy January birthdays to our friends:

David MacIntosh	January 13
Betty Rossi	January 15
Mark Matsuoka	January 26

WINTER FARMERS MARKET RETURNS TO BEEBE HALL !



Spurred by consumer demand, Community Markets is opening 4 indoor farmers markets for Westchester shoppers to get fresh local produce all winter long! While many Hudson Valley eaters are under the impression that local farmers are only selling onions and potatoes over the winter, this is simply not the case. Quite a phenomenon is taking place in the local food world these days; The array of offerings at Community Markets' indoor winter markets is proof that old limitations no longer hold true and, more importantly, local winter eating is about to get a lot more exciting!

Each market is held every Saturday, 9am to 1pm from January 9th until May 22nd at the following locations:

Mt. Kisco Boys and Girls Club
 351 Main St. Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

Briarcliff Congregational Church Parish House, Beebe Hall

St Thomas' Episcopal Church
 168 W Boston Post Road. Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

John Jay High School
 60 N Salem Rd. Cross River, NY 10518

This year's indoor market selection will include, among other things: organic greens, kale, collard greens, beets, turnips, Brussels sprouts, shallots, potatoes, onions, winter squash, carrots, spinach, cabbage, orchard fruit, baby romaine, baby red leaf lettuce, wine, pasture raised beef, poultry and pork, seafood, pickles, specialty foods, artisan cheeses, cider, apples, pears, cider donuts, crusty bread and baked goods.

And it doesn't stop there; Community Markets, dedicated to making each of their markets a place for community members to come together, relax, be entertained and engaged, has planned a series of weekly market activities. Every market day shoppers will enjoy either live music, a lecture, cooking demo or cooking contest at their indoor farmers market!

FIRST COMING

God did not wait till the world was ready,
 till...nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady,
 and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.
 God came when the need was deep and great.
 God dined with sinners in all their grime,
 turned water into wine. God did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy God came
 to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
 To a world like ours, of anguished shame
 God came, and God's light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh,
 to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
 In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
 the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
 to raise our songs with joyful voice,
 for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
 God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Madeleine L'Engle



Save The Date

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Savor the Flavor

Menu & Music for a Mission

Featuring: The VOODOUES

New Orleans soul, blues, boogie woogie & Honky Tonk

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Home-Cooked Cajun Cuisine

7:30 – 10:30 p.m. Dessert, Music, Dancing, Auction

Beebe Hall, Briarcliff Congregational Church

Proceeds to Benefit
2010 Project Relief:

Youth Group Mission Trip to New Orleans

Tickets:

Adults 21+	\$40
Students	\$25
Children up to 14	\$15
Table of 10	\$400
Sponsor Table	\$500

w/ 2 youth servers



Sponsors: Briarcliff Congregational Church, Scarborough Presbyterian Church
and Peekskill Presbyterian Church Youth Groups

Tickets available after Sunday church service and online at www.briarcliffchurch.org

BRIARCLIFF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2010

TEL ~ 914.941.4369 FAX ~ 914.941.1513 EMAIL ~ church-office@briarcliffchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Childcare available during worship. Sunday School meets simultaneously.</i></p>					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Career Closet closed
3 WORSHIP 10AM Christmas Pageant Epiphany Brunch, 11am	4	5 Stewardship meeting, 7:30pm	6 Deacons' meeting, 7:30pm	7 Women's Society meeting/Degreen, 9:30am Senior Choir rehearsal, 8pm	8	9 Career Closet 9:30~11am Farmers Market 9am ~1pm
10 WORSHIP 10AM Congregational meeting (informational) 11am	11 Caring Committee meeting, 7:30pm	12 Christian Ed meeting, 7:30pm	13	14 Senior Choir rehearsal, 8pm	15	16 Career Closet closed Farmers Market 9am ~1pm
17 WORSHIP 10AM Congregational meeting (vote) 11am	18 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY	19 Deadline for February Open Door Trustees' meeting, 7:30pm	20	21 Senior Choir rehearsal, 8pm	22	23 Career Closet 9:30~11am Farmers Market 9am ~1pm Savor the Flavor 5:30~10:30pm
24 WORSHIP 10AM	25 Church Council meeting, 8pm	26	27	28 Senior Choir rehearsal, 8pm	29 Midnight Run	30 Career Closet 9:30~11am Farmers Market 9am ~1pm
31 WORSHIP 10AM						