



ROSLYN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



140 East Broadway
Roslyn, NY 11576



News From the Clerk and Session

Upcoming Events

Sun 9/8
Welcome Back Sunday &
Church Picnic

Sun 10/6
World Communion Sunday



Connect with us:
516.621.3139
RoslynPresbyterianChurch@gmail.com
www.RoslynPresbyterianChurch.com



You received a letter from Rev. Robert Zemke recently that he was leaving Roslyn to become the pastor of the Mattituck Presbyterian Church on the North Fork of Long Island. His last Sunday in Roslyn was September 1. We had a farewell reception for the Zemkes in the North Room after the service. A copy of the letter of appreciation given to the Zemke family at that time is on p. 4.

You are probably curious what is happening next. The Session began discussing future plans at its special meeting on August 21st at which Rev. Zemke's resignation was accepted reluctantly. Patricia Francis, an elder from Memorial Presbyterian Church in Roosevelt, is our liaison with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, which has oversight. Pat attended Roslyn's August Session meeting and outlined the process during our transition period. She also attended our Sunday services on August 25 and September 1. We will have guest ministers in the pulpit in coming weeks (see the schedule on p. 3). We will have an opportunity to hear different people leading our worship.

On Sunday September 8, the Rev. Mark Tammen will be leading the service and preaching for us. Gary de Sesa, Director of our Ministry of Music, will be back at the piano and organ with his excellent musicianship skills. We hope to have our choir singing as well. Sunday September 15 is our annual Welcome Back picnic after the service (outside, weather permitting). The church provides hamburgers and hot dogs and all the fixings. Salads and desserts are welcome—there will be a sign-up sheet on Sunday the 8th so our Nurture Committee (Helen Lockman and Katie Zarghami) can plan. George Nossa again will be our grill master. Do plan to join us for good food and fellowship.

(continued)

News From the Clerk and Session (continued)



The Session has direct day-to-day responsibility for the church while we are without a minister. The current members of the Session are: Robert Gilmore (who is also treasurer and chairs the property committee), Helen Lockman, George Nossa, Jennifer Schaper, Katie Zarghami, and Natalie Naylor. Stephen Lu was also a member of the Session until he and his family moved to Michigan in June. Other Elders and former Session members include Kita and Gary de Sesa (Gary is our organist and choir director), Cathy Shimmel, and Warren Soare.

Our Administrative Assistant is in the church office weekdays, usually from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Daniel Villegas is our sexton (custodian).

Emily Dyer had surgery in early August and has been recuperating at home. She has been a faithful member of the choir as is her husband Dwight, who also serves as our Financial Secretary (i.e. he keeps track of contributions and income).

Volunteers Needed!

Flavia Zemke and Grace Lu taught Sunday school for us; both have now moved away. We are seeking people to fill this vacancy. You don't need to wait to be asked—volunteer! We have materials available to assist you. Several people can share the responsibility and Jen Schnaper has volunteered to help. Our small but mighty choir needs additional reinforcements. If you would like to join our choir, speak to Gary de Sesa. They rehearse on Sunday mornings, one-half hour before and after our service. Colin Thompson has volunteered to lead the weekday morning (adult) Bible study and the date and time for that will be announced soon. Let Colin know if you are interested in attending so he can schedule it at a convenient time.

Kalem and Growing Tree

Two organizations have been sharing our church facility for many years as tenants. They help enable us to financially maintain our large building. Kalem Christian Church is a Taiwanese Lutheran congregation that meets in our sanctuary at 12:30 pm on Sunday afternoons and regularly enjoys lunch in our social hall downstairs. They also have a Mandarin-speaking group that meets at 10 a.m. in one of the classrooms downstairs. Reverend Mark Chen, who had been their minister for many years, left last year. Their new minister should be arriving soon. John Pan is their lay leader; his daughters were our pianists throughout the summer. Warren Soare has been the Session's liaison with the Kalam Church.

The Growing Tree Nursery uses classrooms in the Christian Education wing and the playground in the yard weekdays. Children from two to five years old attend toddler, pre-school, and pre-kindergarten programs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dawn Friedman is the director whose mother, Joanne Miller, started Growing Tree (GT) in 1979. A bench with a plaque recognizing GT's founder is near the outside stairs to the lower level. (GT has another site, Growing Tree North in Roslyn Heights on Warner Avenue, which offers extended care from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for infants from 3 months to pre-kindergarten children.) Robert Gilmore is our liaison with Growing Tree.

Unfortunately we have no pictures of people in this issue. Normally, a Fall Newsletter would feature photographs from the Vacation Bible School, but the VBS in August was cancelled. And in the interest of sending this in a timely fashion, there is no Congregational Spotlight feature on one of our congregants in this issue.

Natalie Naylor, Clerk of Session (and Newsletter editor pro tem)

Schedule of Ministers and Speakers for Upcoming Services

We have arranged guest preachers for the coming weeks. You will note they have a variety of backgrounds. We hope you will help welcome these guests to our church and encourage your friends to attend.

Sept. 8 – Rev. Mark Tammen is the General Presbyter (the closest Presbyterians have to a bishop) for the Presbytery of Long Island (encompassing Nassau and Suffolk counties). He grew up in the Midwest in a Presbyterian minister's home and earned degrees in both ministry and law. Before coming to Long Island, he had served our national church (PCUSA) as Director of the Department of Constitutional Services in the Office of the General Assembly in Louisville, Ky.

Sept. 15 – David Brackett is a former member of the Roslyn Church who now worships in the Community Presbyterian Church in Merrick. He is a CPA who runs his own business as an accountant and tax preparer. He has recently begun to study for the ministry and has preached in Merrick as a lay leader.

Sept. 22 – Rev. Dr. John Amandola, Jr. is the Primary Church Planter and Lead Pastor of the Lighthouse Community Church in Commack (their services are held at 4:30 pm on Sunday afternoons). Recommended by Robert Zemke, Dr. Amandola is the author of *Foundations: Ancient Faith for Modern People* (2017) geared to millennials.

Sept. 29 – Rev. Eleanor Dixon-Hobbs was the Lead Pastor of the St. Paul AME Church in Rockville Center from 2012 to 2018 where she began construction of the Elliot J. Hobbs Family Life Center, named for her late husband. She is the founder of Widows in Ministry (WIM) and the Annual Sister-to-Sister Prayer Breakfast, an ecumenical gathering of more than 400 women. She also has business experience in publishing and sales.

Oct. 6 – World Communion Sunday. The Rev. Marjorie Roth is the chaplain for the Presbyterian Jarvie Program in the New York metropolitan area, which provides social services for the elderly. She had been a chaplain and co-pastor of yoked churches in the Rochester, NY area before coming to Long Island a few years ago with her husband Russ Roth who is the minister at the Oceanside Presbyterian Church. Reverend Marjory Roth will return to Roslyn to preach at our service on November 10.

Oct. 13 – This date is open at this time. Instead of a sermon in the service, we may have a hymn sing where you can pick your favorite hymns to sing. Let us know if you would like such a service.

Oct. 20 – Rev. Lawrence Swenson will lead the service and preach. He has been a chaplain at the Nassau County Jail and in years past has done supply preaching at our church a number of times.

Oct. 27 and **Nov. 3** – Open dates

Nov. 10 – Rev. Marjorie Roth (see October 6).



Roslyn Presbyterian Church
140 East Broadway, Roslyn, NY 11576

September 1, 2019

Dear Reverend Zemke,

We learned recently that you accepted a call to become the pastor of the Mattituck Presbyterian Church and that you are relocating and will begin your ministry there this week. As you can imagine, we have mixed feeling about this news. We know that you are moving to a larger church with new challenges and opportunities, but we will miss your calm leadership and spiritual gifts. Your preaching has been scholarly and insightful. You welcomed new members, conducted baptisms, and funerals with sensitivity.

Nearly five years ago you began your ministry at the Roslyn Church in a half-time position. The Session offered you a three-fourths time position for your second year and a full-time position for the last three years. As a full-time pastor you were able to devote more attention to programing efforts to attract new members. You created a number of new programs and events – such as the Vacation Bible School (VBS), the Easter Egg Hunt, cookouts for young families, Pub Theology Discussions, an improved church website, pizza family nights and a revived Bible Study Group. In addition to attending each Sunday, we appreciate the way the whole Zemke family has been active in the church. Your wife, Flavia, was very involved in the life of the Roslyn Church. Always friendly and welcoming, she enhanced the fellowship time after the service. Flavia was active in the VBS, Bible Study Group, and the Easter Egg Hunt. She assisted in the parenting workshops and coordinated the Moms' Group. The Sunday school grew to 16 children under the leadership of Flavia and Grace Lu. What a joy your three children have been: the ladylike Luisa, the active Benjamin, and the always cheerful Mariana. We also enjoyed getting to know both sets of grandparents.

You may remember that the first time you preached at the Roslyn Presbyterian Church, the fire alarm went off in the middle of your sermon. The smoke from the cooking grill had entered the church from where we were preparing hot dogs and hamburgers for the fall picnic, causing a brief evacuation. What an alarming start to your ministry! May you have a quieter beginning of your ministry at the Mattituck Church, but still ring the bell!

We wish you and your family much peace and happiness. May God be with you and your family on your spiritual journey!

Sincerely, the Elders of the Roslyn Church, on behalf of the congregation,

[Signed by all the current members of the Session plus three other Elders; in alphabetical order: Kita de Sesa, Robert Gilmore, Helen Lockman, Natalie Naylor, George Nossa, Jennifer Schaper, Cathy Shimmel, Warren Soare, and Katie Zarghami.]