

NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 2020



THE BANNER

Dear All,

I want to take a moment to thank everybody for the warmth of welcome Yvonne and I have received since moving to Bridgehampton at the end of August. Thanks to Rebecca and Ted who, particularly during our initial time of quarantine, were always on hand to help us become established in our new surroundings.

Moving to a new house and area at any time is a challenge. Moving during a pandemic has been particularly challenging. But slowly and surely, we have been navigating the necessary hurdles. Visits to Post Office and DMV, numerous address changes, becoming familiar with where things are and how things work. Every day brings something new.

We move into the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is not going to be the same this year. Circumstances are forcing us to have to let go of some of our cherished traditions and established ways of doing things. And that is not easy!

A favorite bible verse of mine, particularly during times of uncertainty, is found in Jeremiah 29:11: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Those words were spoken during a time of hardship and suffering. They were addressed to the Jewish people at a time when they were living in exile, far from home and under the domination of the Egyptian and Babylonian empires.

What made things worse was that, prior to Jeremiah speaking, another prophet, Hananiah had come



along and told the people that everything was going to blow over and they'd be back where they wanted to be in no time at all. Such was an appealing message, but sadly false. Jeremiah stresses that the day of their deliverance was yet to be, and, in the meantime, they were to stay faithful.

Staying faithful at a time when we cannot meet as we would like to or have activities we normally enjoy, takes extra effort on our part. We are sailing in uncharted waters and we will be a work in progress for the foreseeable future.

I am happy to be here and travel this journey with you. I take confidence in God's promise.

That God knows the plans God has for us and that they are plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to offer us hope and a future.

May God's blessing be with us all in this most unusual of Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

The Reverend Adrian J. Pratt B.D.

NOTES FROM CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR

Happy Harvest!

The Christian Education Committee met at the end of October and came up with a few ideas as we enter into Harvest as well as Advent/Christmas.

In terms of Harvest, we will greatly miss our annual pumpkin picking, wagon ride and dinner at the Halsey Farm but we are in the process of planning a dinner with a local restaurant that you could order your dinner for take out. Then we would sign on to zoom to have Rev. Adrian start our meal with a prayer and all would be welcome to have dinner “together” while being home. More details will be mailed home when the specifics are ironed out. So consider this your **Save the Date, November 22nd**, invitation to follow

It’s hard to believe that we are discussing Christmas already but considering we may not be able to have our traditional live pageant, we are **planning on recording the pageant** so that families may view it at home. Our plan is to record parts of the pageant either during or after worship. **If your family, adults too, would like to participate please let me know!** This actually allows us to be more creative, using other sections of our property to make our pageant truly come to life. After all the point of the pageant is to prepare and welcome the birth of Jesus!

CE is also looking into a **few other afternoon events**, that will be done with masks and social distancing/limited participants. It is an important time of year to keep in mind that we are still here to celebrate and worship as long as we are doing it safely! Specific information will be both mailed/emailed once they are finalized.

The spaces in the nursery and parlors are getting new “looks” with some new posters and a prayer wall. **Children can earn raffle tickets for attending Sunday School**, each month a ticket will be selected as a winner. September/October's winner was **Louie Dickson!** At the end of the school year, all tickets will be saved and 1-2 winners will be announced on Youth Sunday for a larger prize!

We are so happy with the support of our families and congregation. We love doing things that keep the kids interested and wanting to come to church. If there is anything you would like to share with our CE committee, please feel free to email ekotto411@gmail.com or call/text 516-658-7116. We are also always looking for parents that want to join our committee, if you have an interest in learning more about CE, reach out to any of our members!

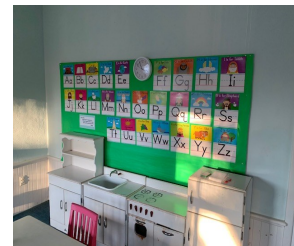
HOLIDAY NEWS FROM THE BALCONY

Dear Members and Friends,

Since Easter it has been a very long haul, learning a new technology, seeking preachers, writing service content, collects and prayers for 19 weeks, coordinating volunteers to participate as worship leaders, planning and preparing the music with Doug and Mimi, and then, finally recording and assembling all the segments into a “film production.” It is a rigorous schedule and one that has eased considerably with the arrival of our Designated Interim Pastor, Rev. Adrian.

And now, looking forward to working on the upcoming holidays.

How will these productions work? Having watched many hours of webinars and zoom discussions on a wide variety of ideas, the Christian Education Committee, with guidance from Rev. Adrian, will collectively assemble the various parts and segments of the Christmas Story using videos. But what would Christmas be without Music and Song? And how do we accomplish such a task safely during such unsafe times?



MESSAGE FROM MISSION

Hope you are and your families are doing well and counting your blessings during these crazy times. We are all grateful to have Pastor Adrian with us at BPC. For the past 5 years we have supported Maureen's Haven financially, and with the hands on lunchmaking once a month, November through March. As you can only imagine, Maureen's Haven challenges will be monumental this year because of the effects of the pandemic on their most vulnerable population of homeless, and the required safety protocols. Our mission committee is committed to continuing to support their good work.

BPC has signed up for one Saturday each month. Volunteers will be able to participate in person, masked and socially distanced, in the Parlors to assemble the sandwiches and lunches, and share fellowship. Volunteers can also help by offering to drop off supplies at the Parlors. We are in need of: individual water bottles, juice boxes, small granolades, packaged snacks (chips and granola bars), and zip lock sandwich bags that can be stored in the Parlor's Kitchen. The day of, we need sandwich fillings, bread and fresh fruit. The Corwiths will deliver our assembled lunches to the Southampton Presbyterian Church.

We very much like to engage the younger generation to volunteer, perhaps High Schoolers, who need community service credits, and young families, wishing to instill mission values early to their children.

Our dates are: December 12th January February 13th and March 27th at 9:30 AM

Please let someone on the Mission Committee know, if you would like to be involved in this important work. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Mission Committee: Elizabeth Barton, Carolyn Corwith, Barbara McCoy, Diane Wade, John White

CONTINUED HOLIDAY NEWS FROM THE BALCONY

The worship committee will be working on two programs, a Lessons and Carols to be prepared in early December and the Christmas Eve pageant which will also be prepared ahead of time so that there are days left for editing.

For the Lessons and Carols we need a few readers and are hoping our folks who have not felt at ease attending worship can participate in this service. Rev. Adrian is also ready and willing to help you record a reading or song and would value the opportunity to visit with you. Our members and friends who need to be cautious with the pandemic are still important to us and we'd love to have you participate in our service in this way.

Now, to the music, It's felt that if a group or family wishes to make an offer of a song, its best to record the ensemble outside with the singers distanced, or offer a solo which could be recorded at home with a pre-recorded accompaniment (perhaps using a speaker and/or earbuds) to help you stay in tune and together. If your family would be willing to give this a try, contact Tom for details and an accompaniment.

Finally, Although I'm usually upstairs during the pageant, I'm aware there are some parents who are recording with their phones and tablets during rehearsals, lessons and carols and pageant performances. If any of you have any snippets or songs saved as keepsakes, they would be very helpful as we begin to seek footage and still shots for the pageant. Those may be emailed to Tom at

doubltrump@gmail.com

Think safe, good health, and gratitude for the blessings we have received.

Tom White, Director of Music

FROM THE HISTORICAL RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE METHODISTS VS. PRESBYTERIANS IN BRIDGEHAMPTON--A STRUGGLE FOR SOULS

The American Revolution provided the impetus and means for American Methodists to break from the Church of England and form their own denomination. By 1800, the "Methodist Episcopal Church"--the first Methodist organization fully independent of the Anglican church--was set to begin a growth that would soon make it one of the century's major American denominations. Methodism's appeal was both religious and social--a rigorous, pious and communal approach to Christian practice and worship and a general commitment to charity and benevolence, reinforced by active evangelism, undertaken by both ministers and lay membership.

Before the Revolution, American Methodism had been concentrated in the southern colonies, including Virginia and the Carolinas, where the Church of England had been the "established" church. By the early decades of the 19th Century, however, the new denomination was beginning to appear in northern areas, including Long Island and New England, where it came into direct competition with Calvinist churches. On the surface, the new entrant appeared similar to the older denominations, with "tent meetings," "revivals" and other activities oriented to gaining and holding members, and everyone read and preached from "the Good Book." However, the zeal of the Methodists and their doctrine were, over time, to become substantial difficulties for the older churches.

The traditional Calvinism of "Reformed" churches considered the selection of those to be "regenerated" (the "Elect") to be predestined. Accordingly, the acts of repentance and rejection of sin were not on-the-spot decisions of a penitent in seeking Salvation, or of God in granting it, but instead were a confirmation of this pre-selection. This did not, however, make the actions mechanical or superfluous. Instead, they served as a critical indication to the penitent and the church of the fact of election. A necessary corollary to this doctrine was the belief that, as this process required an informed decision on the part of the penitent, it required a mature level of knowledge and thoughtfulness, so the penitent would be "accountable".

Methodists reject predestination and believe that repentance is an act of "free will," where a person's decision to seek Salvation is done on his/her own volition, and God may or may not accept the petition, although, because of the immensity of God's Love, is likely to do so. Accordingly, since acceptance on God's part is not fixed, it can be revoked --for example, if there is "backsliding" or other sin. As an old joke says, Calvinists work to show their selection, while Methodists work to keep it.

Due to their requirement of accountability, Calvinists were faced with the conclusion that children could not be presumed to be saved, a view leading to a conclusion that they were, more likely than not, doomed to Perdition. On the contrary, Methodists saw the universality of God's Love as sufficient to save them. Even Augustine, whom Calvinists revered as a Church Father, was torn by this dilemma, leading to his postulate that children, although doomed to Hades, would be placed as far from the fires as possible.

Opposition, by both the general public and many church members, to the Calvinist treatment of "Infant Death," was a continual challenge to the Reformed churches. One attempt to counter or at least ameliorate the difficulty was the institution of the "Halfway Covenant," which allowed parents or grandparents in good standing to stand as proxies for their (grand)children for the purpose of acknowledging and rejecting sin, thereby providing provisional protection until the age of accountability had been reached. The tenuous nature of this stopgap was such, however, that notwithstanding its use, most churches continued to deny baptism to children. Pressures to expand the Covenant's reach--for example, to allow other relatives to stand proxy and to eliminate the requirement of "good standing"--were to contribute to its elimination (the "Saybrook Platforms") in many, but not all, Reformed churches by the second decade of the 19th Century.

Such was the state of affairs when our pastor, Aaron Woolworth (served 1787-1821), said to be a strict doctrinarian, conducted a burial service for a newborn, which has been recorded for posterity. As the only pastor in the area, he presided over burials for nonmembers as well as members, and we assume the father in the following story (included in a history of the local Methodist Church, probably written in the 1960s) was not a member of our church.

Gabriel Halsey, a man of exceptional mental ability and good judgment, lost an infant child and Doctor Woolworth conducted the funeral. After the little coffin was lowered into the grave, the minister turned to Halsey and said, "There is no assurance in the Word of God that a little child like that can be saved, having died before the age of accountability." The father, moved by all the anguish of a loving parent, replied, "Doctor Woolworth, I would rather take that child's chance in the Final Judgment than to take yours."

The Presbyterian denomination considered church membership to be a communicant connection and had rules about how to handle transfers from one church to another: A person wishing to transfer had to request the permission of the Session, acting under the guidance of the pastor. The following Session minutes of June 27, 1817 (slightly edited) show our Session's response to the first request for a transfer to the Methodists--in this case the local group--by Silas Woodruff, Jr. In addressing this request, the Session clearly intended to set a policy for addressing any future similar request.

The Session, after deliberating upon Mr. Woodruff's request, [decided his reasons], in their opinion, were insufficient. . . . Such private feelings as he had assigned [as] considerations of conscience appear to us to be unscriptural and dangerous ground of Christian conduct, which the word of God reprobates as a great sin. But the considerations of the erroneous opinions of the Methodist Church, which, as we understand from their printed standards, appear to us fundamental, constitute still greater difficulties: the denial of the total depravity and sinfulness of all men till they are regenerated [and] the purpose of God's grace in Christ commonly called the Doctrine of Election. As these are cardinal points of doctrine, [they] must be essentially different in all other articles of religion from those who deny them---and as we are commanded to hold fast the [force] of sound words, we know of no way in which we can permit one of our brethren to join himself to a communion so erroneous as we understand and believe the Methodists to be. [We] cannot but feel that the apostolic charge "Mark them that cause divisions among you and avoid them" [Romans 16:17] is applicable to us in relation to the Methodists.

Doctrine may not, however, have been the only popularity problem our church was facing at the time. A need for funds had led to a decision to replace the long-standing practice of moving members' seating forward on the basis of length of membership with an annual auction that gave the highest bidders their preferred pews. In 1893, Emily C. Hedges recalled the practice, as it was fifty years earlier, preobably unintentionally suggesting its social implications:

There were few changes from year to year, but the ceremony of "auctioning off the pews" to the highest bidder was an annual event and often resulted in a change of occupant. The Sunday after Parish Meeting was especially interesting as we were looking to see if we had new neighbors.

By at least the 1950s, our church regularly provided letters of dismissal to Methodist churches and accepted transfers from their churches, was regularly baptizing infants, and held prayer meetings and Lenten and other services, exchanged pulpits, and combined youth groups for instruction in basic religious principles with the local Methodist church. It is not hard to guess which denomination had made the most changes.

Lenten Bible Study Online via "ZOOM"

I am in the process of pulling together an online study for Advent. Still deciding on the theme... there are so many options out there I'm spoilt for choice. However each Session will feature the lighting of a candle somewhere among the proceedings, so make sure you have a favorite candle and something to light it with to hand!

Each session will take place on Tuesday evenings from 7 till 8 pm via "Zoom".

The log in details are as follows...

Bridgehampton PC ADVENT Bible Studies

Times

Tuesday, Dec 1, 2020 07:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern Time

Tuesday, Dec 8, 2020 07:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern Time

Tuesday, Dec 15, 2020 07:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern Time

Tuesday, Dec 22, 2020 07:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/9983234226>

Meeting ID: 998 323 4226

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

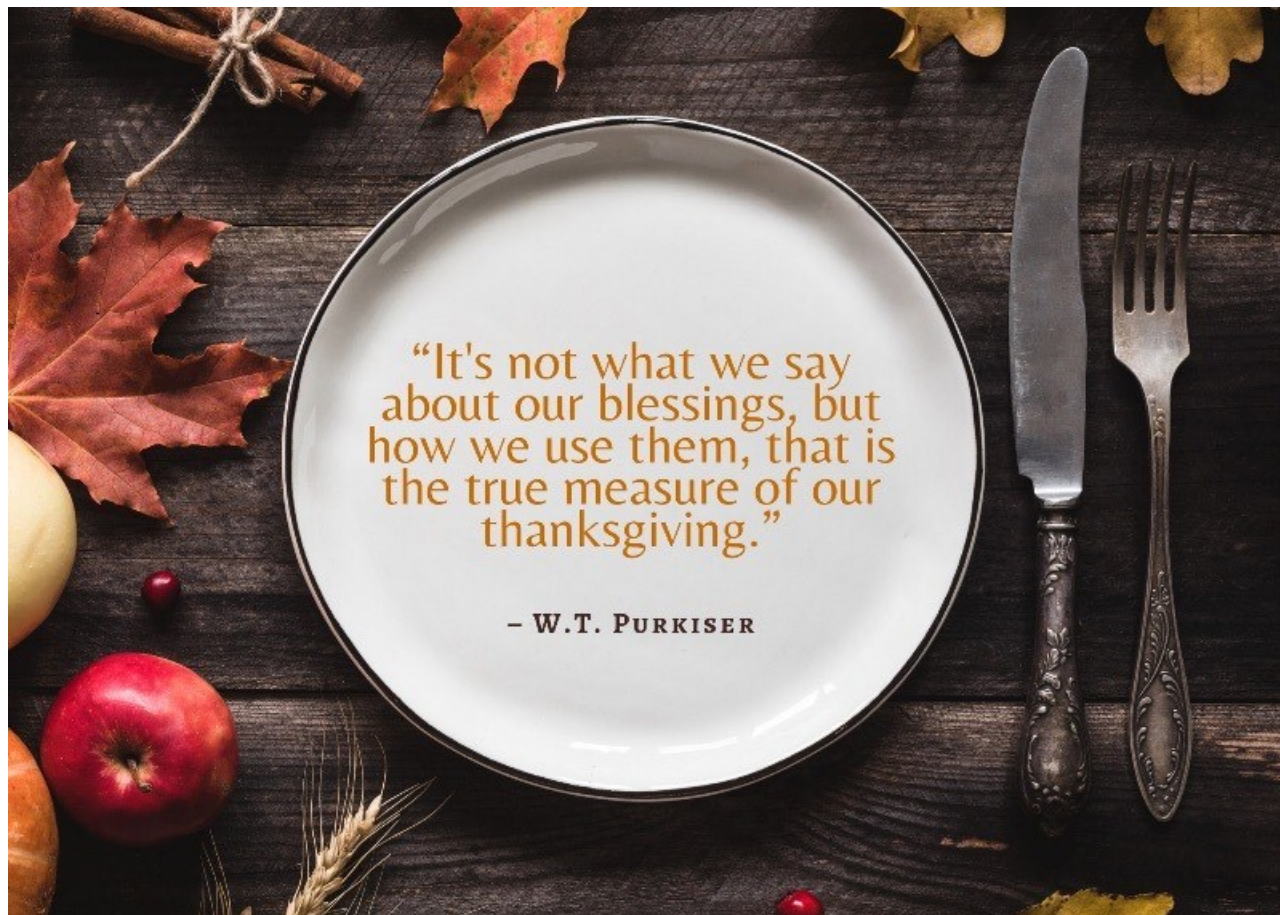
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL FROM PITTSBURGH SEMINARY

Each year the Pittsburgh Seminary offers a free Advent devotional prepared by members of their theological community. A devotion for each day can be found at;

https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1

The devotions can be downloaded as a PDF or read or listened to online.

You can also sign up to receive them as a daily email.



The Food Pantry is accepting food donations for the holidays. Contributions may be left in the narthex on Sundays or simply drop your donation off outside the Narthex door and ring the pantry director Tom White and let him know of your donation. His Number is 631-680-1111.



Believe it or not, Maureen's Haven is starting its 17th year in Southampton, and many other Churches. Our first night is scheduled for Friday, November 13th. We will be hosting the 2nd & 4th Friday and Saturday from November-March this season. Any questions, please get in touch. Below you will see the SignUpGenius information for Volunteer's that will be used for this year.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ORDER FORM

Christmas Flowers will decorate our chancel on
If you would like to give them in memory of a loved one,
please fill out this form.

The deadline for orders is Friday, December 4th.

Flowers can be taken home on December 20th.

You may leave your order in the church office or mail to:

Deacons
Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 3038
Bridgehampton, NY. 11932-3038

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Poinsettia: Red (\$18 each) _____

White (\$18 each) _____

Pink (\$18 each) _____

Please Check Choice:

____ I will **TAKE** the flowers ordered.

____ I will **LEAVE** the flowers ordered

Attached is a check for \$ _____ ,
Or mail to the above address.

Checks payable to Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church
with "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line.

NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
All Saints Day/22nd After Pentecost 1 10:30 Worship (Sunday School) Daylight Savings time ends	2	3 Election Day	4 8:30 Yoga & Stretch	5	6	7 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
23rd Sunday after Pentecost 8 8:30am Session 10:30 Worship (Sunday School) 11:30 Fellowship Caregiver Sunday	9	10 10-11:30 Chat & Craft	11 8:30 Yoga & Stretch	12	13	14
24th Sunday after Pentecost 15 10:30 am Worship (Sunday School)	16	17 10-11:30 Chat & Craft	18 8:30 Yoga & Stretch 11—1pm Food Pantry	19	20	21
Christ the King / Reign of Christ 22 Harvest Sunday 10:30 Worship (Sunday School) 6:00 pm Thanksgiving "ZOOM" Dinner	23	24 10-11:30 Chat & Craft	25 8:30 Yoga & Stretch	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
1st Sunday of Advent 29 10:30 Worship (Sunday School) 4:00pm Worship Team "ZOOM" Meeting	30	1 10-11:30 Chat & Craft				

DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10-11:30 Chat & Craft	2 8:30 Yoga & Stretch	3	4	5
2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30 Worship (Sunday School)	6	7 10-11:30 Chat & Craft	8 8:30 Yoga & Stretch	9 10	11 Memorial Flower Order Deadline	12 9:00 am Maureen's Haven Sandwich Making (Parlors)
3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Session 10:30 am Worship (Sunday School)	13	14 10-11:30 Chat & Craft	15 8:30 Yoga & Stretch 11—1pm Food Pantry	16 17	18	19
5th Sunday of Advent Lessons & Carols 10:30 Worship (Sunday School) Memorial Flower Pick Up	20	21 Winter Begins	22 8:30 Yoga & Stretch	23 24 Christmas Eve	25 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day	26
1st Sunday of Christmas 10:30 Worship (Sunday School)	27	28	29 10-11:30 Chat & Craft	30 31 New Years Eve		

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Office is open and here to support the congregation.

New office hours: Tue. – Wed. 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
and Friday 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Office email: office@bridgehamptonpc.org

We now have new emails for Reverend Adrian and Michael Wootton-Treasurer

Reverend Pratt: pastor@bridgehamptonpc.org
Michael Wootton: treasurer@bridgehamptonpc.org

Social Media updates and postings: Please submit any items you would like posted on our web site or the Facebook page by Friday at noon. I work on them during the week and post just before I leave at 2pm on Friday.

“YOGA – STRETCH” GROUP

“Yoga – Stretch” will meet Wednesdays 8:30--9:30 am in The Parlors.

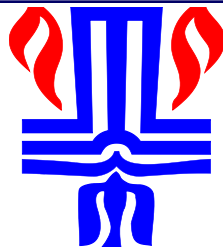


BPC welcomes a “Yoga”/ “Stretch” Class for members and friends. The group leader Linda Capello will hold Wednesday classes Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9:30+. This group is well-received and is continuing through June!!! Questions about this group?

Call Carrie Crowley at: (516) 459-7061.

Birthday's & Anniversary's November & December 2020

Charlotte Johnson	11/1	Jalen Cooks	12/01
Jill Weigley	11/1	Leanne Hostetter	12/01
Susan Tureski	11/3	Tom Conklin	12/02
Holly Halsey	11/4	Zane Musnicki	12/02
Barbara McCoy	11/7	Brian Otto	12/02
John Halsey	11/8	Lauren Weiss	12/02
Margaret McCoy	11/12	Mary Bishop	12/10
James Halsey	11/14	Bill McCoy	12/10
Audrey Coslick	11/18	Evelyn Versace	12/10
Claire Norden	11/19	David Conklin	12/12
Wylee Musnicki	11/21	Elijah McClelland	12/13
Todd Tureski	11/23	Christina Osborn	12/19
Carolyn French	11/25	Hudson Tanzmann	12/19
Joan Gray	11/25	Lisa Thayer	12/19
Nathan Sandler	11/25	Dylan Centalanza	12/23
Samantha Sandler	11/25	Fallon Centalanza	12/23
Jennifer Tanzmann	11/25	Anais Kuss	12/23
Elliot Weiss	11/27	Meadow Osborn	12/23
Mabel Santelle	11/28	Kathy Lowe	12/29
		Rebecca Wright	12/30



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Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church

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Email: office@bridgehamptonpc.org

Facebook: Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Adrian J. Pratt, Pastor

Choirmaster and Organist—Thomas White

Christian Education Director—Emily Otto

Church Secretary—Joan Gray

Financial Secretary & Asst. Treasurer —Elizabeth Barton

Sexton—Rufino Lopez

Treasurer—Michael Wootton

Elders: Carrie Crowley, Ted Dickson, Val Florio,

Bonnie Hedges, Deb McEneaney,

Brooke Tortorella, Evelyn Versace,

Jane Weigley, Michael Wootton, Rebecca Wright

Deacons: Lisa Babinski, Erin Dickson, Donna Halsey,

Mimi Leonard, Joy Sieger, John White,

Thomas White

