

## In This Issue

Featured Article

Article Headline

## Calendar

**May 3** Acolyte Training after 9:30 service.

**May 10** Class with Rev. Cam (for 8+) on Biblical mothers-Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary.

**May 16** Ecumenical Blessing of the Fields. 9am-5pm, beginning at Grace Church.

**May 24 9:00 AM** Memorial Day Service at St. Peter's Cemetery.

**May 31** Class with Rev. Cam (8+) on the Trinity.

**June 7** Rural and Migrant Ministry's Rev. Richard Witt's visit, including children's sermon.

**June 14** Acolyte Training after 9:30 service.

**June 21** Father's Day. Children's sermon: "in a boat together" --the sea and the Bible. Acolyte Training after the 9:30 service.

**June 28** Feast of St Peter and St Paul.

## Quick Links...

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

On April 26th the children helped to create mini "Scripture gardens" in planters. As you can see from the picture, the planters are quite beautiful architecturally and also tell an iconic story. The late John Whitworth, for many years our senior warden, donated these planters as a way for us all to share in his admiration for the beauty of Creation. His house and gardens were always a featured stop on the Millbrook Garden Tour. Thanks to the efforts of the children and to the creativity and botanical knowledge of Bindy Kaye, the planters contain Sedum, semper vive and -the kind of vegetation and flowers that Jesus would have admired as he journeyed the rough and arid paths of the Holy Land. With 21st Century consciousness of climate change, draught and conservation, by maintaining plants requiring less water, we are practicing what we pray "Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly..." (p. 388 of *The Book of Common Prayer*).

As we look ahead to the blooms of spring and summer, as we tend to the inter-generational "gardens" in our lives--our families, friends and neighbors, let us remember the joy that comes from teaching, learning, practicing and praying together. We hope you will partake in the opportunities which lie ahead and that you will offer your gifts of ideas and talents freely.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Cam



## The Spark Curriculum

On a trial basis, we are using a new curriculum in Sunday School. Met with great success and therefore recommended by Grace Church, Manhattan, the *Spark* curriculum provides Bible-based multi-age curricula. Each lesson therefore is stand-alone and models what families will hear in church that day. The goals of the program are for the children "to relate with Bible characters and see themselves in Bible stories, apply faith-based actions in their own lives, and to understand the structure of the Bible." For older children, the goal is for them "to know the Bible well enough to begin to interpret stories and discover ways to apply the Bible to their own lives." The older children will continue with classes with Rev. Cam which will expand on lectionary themes from historical or artistic perspectives. Beginning in May, Rev. Cam will post by e-mail and ultimately, on the St. Peter's website, the lesson plan for each Sunday.

## Education Advisory Committee

Andrew Garcia, Torrie Larson have agreed to work with Marie Scagnelli and Rev. Cam to serve as an advisory to the Sunday School and Family Education Program. We will review and support our programs and seek new ideas and engagement from parishioners. We welcome the participation of a few more parishioners in our work. Our next meeting will take place in early June.

## Acolyte Training

To better serve our busy families, we will hold two acolyte training sessions in the months of May and June. All current, new, and prospective acolytes are welcome to join in. Training begins after the 9:30 service and lasts a half hour. Please contact Rev. Cam with questions or to RSVP. [chardy@millbrook.org](mailto:chardy@millbrook.org)

## Exploring God's Creation

Many of our families look forward to weekends in Millbrook to relax and enjoy family time. Here are some ways to do so while appreciating the diversity and beauty of the Hudson Valley.

**Innisfree Gardens** is considered one of the world's "ten best gardens". Acres of carefully cultivated Buddhist and Chinese Cup gardens, Innisfree is a wonderfully peaceful and imaginative place to explore with your family. Beginning May 6, Innisfree is open Wednesday-Sunday from 10-4 and 11-5 on weekends. [www.innisfreegarden.org](http://www.innisfreegarden.org)

**The Trevor Zoo** at Millbrook School is home to endangered and domestic species in natural and professionally designed habitats. Open 365 days a year and AZA accredited, the Trevor Zoo features educational displays and offers tours and events. [www.millbrook.org](http://www.millbrook.org)

**Wethersfield Garden** of Amenia is the estate of the late Chauncey Stillman. At his behest the estate is now open to the public for tours and picnics. At the highest elevation in Dutchess County Wethersfield offers panoramic views of the Catskills. [www.wethersfieldgarden.org](http://www.wethersfieldgarden.org)