

Pastor's Corner

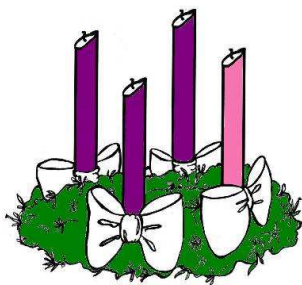
Let's Wait ... Please

Pastor Tom Philipp



It was Saturday, November 5. I was in Manhattan for the opera Wagner's "Siegfried" which runs 5 and a half hours including two intermissions! I arrived early enough at Penn Station to stop for coffee. This was to be an occasion to relax for a few minutes and read my newspaper. Did my ears deceive me? The musical number being played as background music was "Here Comes Santa Claus." I turned to a gentleman sitting at the next table and asked, "Are we going to be listening to that for SEVEN WEEKS?" He just smiled, knowing my question was rhetorical. Christmas... let us wait ...please.

I have noticed in driving around at night (and I am writing this the week before Thanksgiving) that not only have stores decorated already for Christmas, so have many homes in our areas. Can't we wait? Please.



Joannie, the waitress who serves me breakfast on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday morning's at The Royal Oak, informs me she has all her Christmas shopping done already. She has fourteen grandchildren to buy for.

Christmas isn't for seven weeks, can't we wait please?

Our Church calendar will not let us rush to Christmas. It insists on four weeks of waiting known as Advent. Of course, 'Christian waiting' isn't just sitting around doing nothing. It is time to do the necessary preparation within the mode of waiting, which gives full meaning to the birth of the Christ Child. Hoping, expecting, watching, anticipating gives a particular meaning and thrust to the waiting.

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Session to Consider Sponsoring an Overture to the General Assembly

After the passage of the Marriage Equality Law in New York State in June a complication arose for Presbyterian ministers. On June 30 all pastors in our presbytery, The Presbytery of Long Island, received an email from The Rev. Mark Tammen, the General Presbyter, who is both a minister and a lawyer, indicating that case law within our denomination indicates that:

1) Ministers should not utilize liturgies for Christian marriage or liturgies for the recognition of civil marriage ceremonies for same sex couples.



2) Ministers may not perform a ceremony that they consider or represent to be the same as a marriage ceremony nor may they permit their facilities to be utilized for any such ceremony.

3) However, ministers may provide pastoral care in the form of worship services that "celebrate a loving, caring and committed relationship" such as civil unions for same sex couples, but they must also advise such couples that such a service does not constitute a marriage and may not be held out as such.

At the July meeting of our Session concern was raised of the restriction that would be placed on their Pastor if he chose to officiate at a same sex marriage, and a restriction on them in granting use of our facilities. They indicated they would support him in this matter. At the September meeting Pastor Tom indicated that he took Rev. Tammen to lunch to explore the implications should he perform such a ceremony. Tammen felt there would be support within the Presbytery for our Pastor because of his "long track record".

Another avenue to pursue would be to

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Christmas Poetry and Prose

On Sunday, December 18 during the Coffee Hour, there will be an informal gathering in our Christmas tree lit sanctuary. You will have an opportunity to hear several selections of Christmas prose and poetry. Some may be very familiar and some may be unfamiliar, some from early writers and some from the more contemporary. Readers will include Debbie May and Pastor Tom.



Fellowship

Kappy Tilney

On October 2, 2011, the committee hosted a Potluck Supper in the Carriage House. The Deacons' cookbook, Favorites from our Table, was the source of some of the selections and some were truly "potluck". As usual, everything was delicious and bountiful. Thank you all!

Many thanks are also in order to the Coffee Hour hosts. Our fellowship is enhanced by the delectable assortment that magically appears and, more prosaically, disappears each Sunday.

On December 11, 2011, at 5pm, please join us in the Gallery for an Advent Supper. As the committee is providing the meal, "soup to nuts", this will not be one of Old South Haven's traditional potlucks. As we gather to celebrate this joyous time, we hope to help the Deacons with their stocking stuffing and decorate our beautiful tree.

As we move from Thanksgiving through Advent and, finally to Christmas, may peace fill your hearts and homes.



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May our observance of Advent, with its lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath, singing Advent hymns, listening to the choir's anthems, hearing the assigned scripture lessons for the period, and this preacher's attempt to illuminate them for today, and followed then by stuffing Christmas stockings for the residence at the Adult Home, as well as, erecting and decorating the Church's Christmas tree, and finally, attending the Christmas Eve Service, bring a freshness to something that has become quite traditional. Then truly we can speak of a Blessed Christmas for one and all.

The Advent Book Discussion

At least a dozen of our members are reading "The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth" by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The focus of the authors is to present the two stories of the birth of Jesus (one in Matthew and one in Luke, which differ) as much more than sentimental. They are both personal and political. After presenting the meaning of these stories for the early Christian community, the writers consider their meaning for today.



A discussion of the book will take place in the Gallery at **7pm on Sunday, Dec. 4**. A follow up discussion will be held on **Monday, December 12 at 7pm**.



Tree Trimming and Stocking Stuffing

On the afternoon of December 11 at 4:00 pm we will decorate the Church's Christmas tree and the sanctuary. Brian Mullahy and his assistants will erect the tree right after the church service. At 4:00pm several of us will help the Deacons stuff stockings for residents of the Adult Home. When we have finished, around 5:00pm, we will have a time of fellowship and a light supper of soup, cheese and crackers. This special event really gets us in the anticipation of Christmas mood.



Session Considers Overture, Continued from page 1

overture the General Assembly to eliminate the restrictive language in the denomination's present policy. A movement is underway across the denomination to do this. Pastor Tom will be bringing to the Session the overture brought by the Presbytery of Boston and one brought by the Presbytery of East Iowa. He will propose that we use similar language and petition our Presbytery to also send an overture to the General Assembly. Our Presbyterian Church in Glen Cove will do the same, and we may find others within the Presbytery to sign on.



Mission and Outreach

Sean Moran

As the Christmas season approaches and we dedicate our Stewardship for the upcoming year, it is time to share with the members of Old South Haven the

groups we provide Mission to.

Old South Haven provides mission to Inn Friendship, St. Joseph the Worker Food Shelf, Thursday's Child, Long Island Council of Churches, and Union Seminary in New York City. Through our mission giving, we support these organizations. What do these organizations provide?

- Inn Friendship provides a Soup kitchen for those less fortunate to have a hot meal.
- St. Joseph the Worker Food Shelf provides outreach to the East Patchogue, Bellport area in the form of food pantry and advocacy.
- Thursday's Child provides advocacy, referral, education and outreach for those living with AIDS.
- The Long Island Council of Churches unites diverse Christians to work together to improve the well being of Long Islanders and to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation.
- Union Seminary in New York City, an independent, multi-denominational seminary, derives from a Christian heritage that is at once progressive and evangelistic: to educate leaders for ministry in churches and related organizations, to extend the work of social justice and to enrich the academy through teaching and research. It is also the alumni of our pastor, Rev. Thomas J. Philipp.
- Our outreach has been to the adult home in the form of socks and gifts at the Christmas season.

However, the mission and outreach of Old South Haven does not end with what we do as a church, but also what our members do as volunteers to various organizations that provide for the bettering of society. Members of Old South Haven provide mission with groups such as the Pilot Club, Bellport Adult Home, Little Shelter Animal Shelter, Shinnecock Senawaka Society, and other groups that we may not be aware of.

In keeping with our Mission and Outreach, the St. Joseph the Worker food pantry is in need of the



Building and Grounds Report

Ann Wiswall

The Building and Grounds Committee is pleased to report that the painting of the church sanctuary and the touch-up exterior painting has been

completed by Quarltre Painting. The work was paid for by our Caithness Fund Grant.

We have submitted two additional bids for the use of the remaining funds in our Caithness Grant. One bid is for repaving the walkways to the church entrances. The second bid is for repairing the lighting of the church sign and façade and for improving the lighting of the church parking area and the church and Carriage House entrances. Both of these improvements would make the use of our buildings safer after dark.

JD Flooring, recommended by Judi Bird, refinished the Gallery Floor. This has made the room look brighter and more attractive.

The lock to the Carriage House door has been replaced. Richard Thomas and John Deitz gave generously of their time and expertise to research, order and then install the new lock. Keys to the new lock are being distributed to Carriage House tenants and to church members who use the facility. Richard and John should receive all our appreciation for their generous donations of time and talent and labor to make these improvements.

The most recent property improvement has been the painting of the outlines on the driveway entrance to make it more visible day and night.

My sincere thanks to all for their willingness to help.



Clerk's Report:

Rev. Philipp and I attended the Presbytery Meeting of October 22 at Massapequa Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery is in the process of implementing NFOG, also known as the New Form of Government for the Presbytery.



following: sweet cereals, pork and beans, canned string beans, Ramen Noodle Soup, Applejuice in plastic containers, diapers in size 5 and 6, powdered milk, and toilet paper. Items may be left in the basket in the Narthax.

Advent Series

Music Department

Mark Quintana

The theme of this year's Advent series is "Wonder". Special bulletins have been ordered and each week worshipers will also receive a devotional insert that can be used during the course of the week in their home setting. Pastor Tom has announced sermon titles and scripture readings for each of the Sundays of Advent.



Advent 1 November 27:

Sermon: "Stay Ready and Keep Awake"
Lessons: Isaiah 64: 1-9 Mark 13: 24-37



Advent 2 December 4:

Sermon: "God Meets Us As We Are"
Lessons: Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1: 1-8



Advent 3 December 11:

Sermon: "The Light of the World"
Lessons: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 John 1: 6-8, 19-2



Advent 4 December 18:

Sermon: "Surprising Announcement"
Lessons: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Luke 1: 26-38



Christmas Eve December 24: 11:00 pm

Traditional Candle Light Service
Lessons and Carols



Sunday, December 25 Morning Worship:

Sermon: "Christmas Affirmation"
Lessons: Isaiah 52: 7-10 John 1: 1-14

The Choir has begun rehearsing again and sang for the first time on Sunday, October 30th.

We sang a 4 part traditional arrangement of "Come Ye Thankful People Come" on November 20th to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

There are several pieces being prepared for Advent and Christmas. "Candles of Advent" is a richly harmonized message of peace, which should be very inspirational. We hope to have Ann Wiswall play the recorder accompaniment for this special anthem. There are two or three more selections to be considered throughout December to bring us into 2012 with peaceful and celebratory anticipation.

Blessings and Merry Christmas from Mark Quintana and all of the members of the choir.

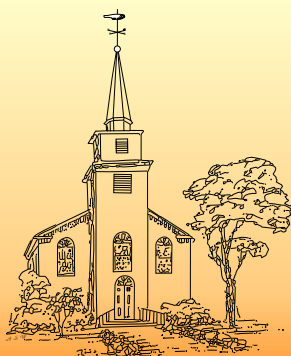


Christmas Party for Elders and Deacons (and follow up Open House)

Pastor Tom will have his annual Christmas Party for Church Officers at the Manse on Friday, December 16 at 7pm. This offers a time to say "thank you" for their work and their commitment. He plans to have an Open House at the Manse for all members and friends on Sunday afternoon, January 15.

2012 Morning Worship Assignments

Date	Greeter	Lay Leader	Coffee Hour
01-Jan	K. Tilney	P. Angus	K. Tilney
08-Jan	S. Moran	L. Scott	S. McKay
15-Jan	J. Barry	D. Jones	Neal/Unny
22-Jan	K. Tilney	L. Majowka	Mayo/Hall
29-Jan	Morgan	B. Mullahy	Tilney/Wiswall
05-Feb	K. Tilney	D. Mayo	Bird/Scott
12-Feb	H. Altomare	S. McKay	Stevens
19-Feb	K. Tilney	F. Decker	P. Light
26-Feb	Morgan	S. Moran	Tilney/Kellogg



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