

*Pastor's Corner:*

## Getting Ready For Lent and Easter

### Pastor Tom Philipp



It seems we have just taken down the tree and other decorations for Christmas. There are some exceptions, however. A few houses still have their decorative lights burning at night. Instead of observing Advent and the 12 days of Christmas, they have extended that to 60 days! After all, they went to great expense on this project.

Now the focus, at least for pastors and worship leaders, is to make the needed preparations for Lent and Easter. This year there is only four and a half weeks between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday. This Newsletter, being prepared in January will, therefore, be a little sketchy and incomplete as to what is being planned. We are happy to announce that we are once again doing our planning cooperatively, though not with our partners in the past. We have been informed that Yaphank, Center Moriches, and Middle Island have designed a Tuesday Bible Study Program and will not be participating.

Ralph Wright, now serving as Interim at East Moriches and Remsenburg, contacted me and said he would still like to do something cooperatively. He brought this matter to the clergy group in his area and proposed that Old South Haven and the two congregations he now serves join with churches in the Westhampton area that have a history of doing things ecumenically. Plans are underway to do that.

An Ash Wednesday Service will be held at the Westhampton Beach Methodist Church at 7:00pm. The Rev. Mark Powell who is the Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Westhampton Beach will be the preacher. He has been on Long Island only since this past June, having come from Wilmington, North Carolina.

That group is also planning to continue the old traditional three hour Good Friday Service on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 12noon to 3:00pm. Participating ministers will preach on the Seven Last Word's. It will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Two other Good Friday opportunities are offered to us. St. James Episcopal Church, our closest neighbor, has invited us to join them in a Good Friday walk in our Brookhaven community. On Good Friday evening Bellport Methodist will join us at Old South Haven.

We are presently working on a Wednesday night Lenten Series. As of this writing Westhampton, East Moriches, Remsenburg, and Old South Haven will be hosting an evening. Old South Haven is scheduled for February 27.

## News Bits

The following were elected at the Congregational Meeting to serve on the Session and Board of Deacons:

Session: Deborah Mayo, Jason Neal, and Sean Moran  
Deacons: Catherine Kellogg and Robert Stirling

We welcome Diane Hall who became a member of Old South Haven in January.



### *New Member:*

## Reflection from Diane Hall

For the past several years as I have passed by Old South Haven Presbyterian Church during evening hours, I have been comforted to see light streaming out through the lovely fan windows and into the darkness. After encouragement from my dear friend Deb Mayo, I came one Sunday morning and was equally comforted to see how, from inside the sanctuary, the morning sun streams warmly in through those same lovely windows.



Each week when I returned on Sunday mornings, I experienced a welcoming church family that shines with light and warmth. It has been great fun to sing with the choir, enjoy social events on the church lawn, savor tasty pot luck dinners, and listen to Pastor Tom's wonderful voice delivering sermons, singing hymns, and talking with the children.

I resonate with the progressive mission of this hospitable "more light" congregation - the embodiment of a divine love that is inclusive, affirming, and unconditional. I feel a "at-homeness" in this small historic church that seems hallowed by those who have worshiped here in years gone by. With small steps across two-plus years, I have come to the realization that this light-filled congregation feels as much my church home as the Presbyterian church of my childhood and young adult years in Binghamton, New York. My decision to become a member at Old South Haven feels like the perfect next step.



### *Newly elected to Session:*

## Jason Neal

Jason has served as a Sunday school teacher at Old South Haven Church, Brookhaven, NY, and at First Presbyterian Church, Lake Forest, IL. He was ordained as an elder in 1993 and has served as an elder commissioner to the Presbytery of Long Island and the Presbytery of Chicago.

He was a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) to the 205<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Wichita, Kansas, and represented PC (USA) as a Steward to the 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1998. During his college years, Jason served as the student coordinator of the Interfaith Center at Lake Forest College, completed an internship with the Parliament for the World's Religions, and was also a member of the national-level Presbyterian Student Strategy Team (PSST), helping organize the Celebrate III ecumenical conference in 1999.



## Deborah Mayo

When I was a new member of the Brookhaven Hamlet community, Ann Wiswall kindly invited me to be a reader in a performance which celebrated Old South Haven's rich history.

It was a number of years later, when I was attending the opening of Bobby Sterling's photography exhibit in the church gallery, that she introduced me to Danny Cornelissen. As I shook his hand I realized that we had recently worked together at Stony Brook University, where I teach in the Theater Arts Department. Danny had played the harpsichord in a production of Moliere's *Tartuffe*, which I directed. Our re-connection was fortuitous, because Ann told me that Danny was the church's organist and the director of the choir (in which she sang as an alto). I confided to them that I love to sing and boldly asked if I might come join the altos at Old South Haven. I was given an immediate, warm welcome to the choir loft and, indeed, to every part of this community of faith.



It has been my great joy to be a member of the choir, to be a lay reader, and to stand with my friend, the late George Stoney, to become a member of this church family. I have certainly found my spiritual home here; and it will be a great honor for me to serve on the session.

## Board of Deacons



*Joann Neal*

Hurricane Sandy provided an opportunity for the Deacons to help people who lost their homes and were displaced right here on Long Island. The committee voted to send a check for \$500.00 to The Presbyterian Church of the Moriches in Center Moriches. The money supported their program to help those in the Mastic area that suffered severe damage due to the storm.

On Thanksgiving the Deacons helped 2 families in the North Bellport Area. A Thanksgiving meal was provided to make their Thanksgiving more enjoyable for their families. For Christmas the Deacons helped a family with toys and clothing, to bring joy to the 4 grandchildren that the head of household was raising. The family was very appreciative. The families that we served came by recommendation of the Bellport,

## Outreach and Mission

*Brian Mullahy*

*Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears,  
While we all sup sorrow with the poor;  
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears;  
Oh hard times come again no more.*

*While we seek mirth and beauty and music light and gay,  
There are frail forms fainting at the door;  
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say  
Oh hard times come again no more.*

These are the first two verses of the song "Hard Times Come Again No More" written and composed by Stephen Foster. Foster is considered by some as the first American songwriter of the modern era. He was something of a "pop star" in his time and like many of today's pop or rock stars he died young and broke. He died at 37 years of age with 38 cents of Civil War script and 3 pennies with a scrap of paper that simply said "Dear friends and gentle hearts" in his wallet.

As we go about our lives in our communities can we see the "frail forms fainting at the door" and are we ready and willing to "sup sorrow with the poor". Here at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church we support INN Friendship which provides a soup kitchen at St. Joseph the Worker Church in East Patchogue as part of our mission giving. Since 1992 volunteers from the various churches and organizations in the East Patchogue Bellport area have been serving free hot, nutritious meals to anyone who feels the need for a meal and/or companionship. According to INN Friendship statistics since 1995 they have provided over 56,000 meals with almost half the guests being children. In these hard times grants have been deleted and there is more need of assistance from others. So our support of INN Friendship is of consequence and meaning.

*Dear friends and gentle hearts  
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears;  
Oh hard times come again no more to the least of these.*



Hagerman, East Patchogue Alliance.

The Deacons have as their mission "to minister to those in the congregation and in the community who come to our attention through our contacts in the greater Brookhaven, Bellport, East Patchogue Community".

The Deacons would like to thank the members of the congregation and friends of the church who give support through their generous donations.

### Prayer List

We extend condolences to Carol Burns upon the death of her beloved Charles Setlow.

Continued prayers for Linda Scott and family.

## Pastor Tom Receives Unitas Award

Each October Union Theological Seminary, NYC holds its Union Days. During that period alumni/ae honor their own with the Unitas Distinguished Alumni/ae Awards. Honorees have distinguished themselves in the church, academy, and society across the country and around the world.

This past October Pastor Tom was one of four recipients of the award. His citation reads: "Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York proudly honors distinguished alumnus Thomas J. Philipp '62: Campus minister, veterans advocate, reproductive health services activist, LGBT activist; for his visionary advocacy for more than 50 years of God's inclusive, multi-faith, affirming, prochoice, compassionate commonwealth; and for transforming the lives of so many – quietly, unassuming, lovingly and efficiently – for the better"



*Pastor Tom receives the Award. Pictured are from the left: Dr. Serene Jones, President of Union Theological Seminary, Pastor Tom, The Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison, Bass Professor of Christian Ethics, Bangor Theological Seminary and President of Union Theological Seminary Alumni/ae Council, and The Rev. Christa Fuller Burns, Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, MD and former assistant pastor of Christ First Presbyterian Church, Hempstead NY. Rev. Burns presented Pastor Tom for the Award.*

Linda Majowka, Shirley MacKay and Nancy Best attended from our church. They were joined by Pastor Tom's two nieces and their husbands as well as several of his close friends.

The write up in the printed program stated: "On the vanguard of social justice for more than 50 years, Rev. Philipp is famous in Seminary annals for having stood up to President Van Dusen – while still a student, and at enormous personal risk – on behalf of full inclusion of LGBT persons within church and society. He is the recipient of numerous awards, among them the Higher Education Honor Roll Award of the Presbyterian Church (USA); and the Rev. Bea Blair Courageous Service Award from Family Advocates of New York, for his work to make abortion legal in New York prior to Roe vs. Wade. Recently he advocated on behalf of same-gender marriage legislation in New York State."

## We Host the Presbytery

On Tuesday, April 16, Old South Haven will host the meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island. It is significant in that it will mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first time the Presbytery of Suffolk County (of which the Presbytery of Long Island is the successor) held one of its meetings at a "Parish of South Haven" meeting house: March 23, 1763.

As our present facility built in 1828 used the timber from the frame of the old meeting house, the members of Presbytery will be, at least partially, meeting within the walls in which they first met 250 years ago.

Our Church has begun making plans for that event. Darcy Stevens, assisted by Debbie Mayo, Diane Hall, and Linda Scott, will lead a committee which will supervise the overall operation. The meeting will begin with a Fellowship time and Registration in the Carriage House, AA which normally uses that facility at that time has made other arrangements for their meeting. The evening meal will be catered and take place at St. James Episcopal Church, our neighbor, which has a good size kitchen and fellowship hall. Arrangements are being made to allow parking on the street in what is normally a no parking zone during school hours.

It is anticipated that between 80 and 100 persons will be attending. There is a need for our OSHPC people to serve in various capacities: serve as hosts, assist in parking, handle registration and selling dinner tickets, arrange for child care, and respond to other requests.

As we welcome attendees at the beginning of the meeting we hope to introduce them 'briefly' to some of our history both in written material and maybe in a dramatic fashion. With this undertaking there are many ways each of us can assist to make it a great day.



## Music Department

*Mark Quintana*

The holidays were full of activities which were enjoyed by all. The tree decorating service was enhanced by having a music program in the sanctuary followed by a delicious dinner of homemade soups and breads. Linda Bonaccorso blessed us with her fine soprano and a wide variety of Christmas selections were offered from pop to sacred. The service was well attended.

Also a highlight of our Christmas celebration was the fine Christmas Eve performance which was particularly beautiful this year. Joe Porcelli played the Haydn Concerto for Trumpet and Piano, accompanied by Mark Quintana. Daryl Jordan graced us once again with her wonderful voice and joined the choir for two selections which were well received by the attendees. The church was quite full considering the 11pm start for the service. The bible readings in between musical selections were very well coordinated and retold the story of Christ's birth very animatedly. The service ended traditionally with the candlelight singing of "Silent Night".

We look with anticipation to offering a wide selection of music for 2013. A special thank you to Richard Thomas for helping to order music and make copies as needed. A great New Year is wished for all from Mark Quintana and the Church Choir.



## Stewardship

*Nancy Best*

The Stewardship letter for 2013 pledges was mailed in the beginning of November to members and friends, and the Dedication of Pledges Sunday was on November 12, 2012.

Thank you to all members and friends who made pledges for the year 2013; it's very helpful to have some idea of what will be coming in when it's time to make up the new budget.

If you haven't yet pledged and would like to, it is not too late!

## Message from your editor Linda Scott

The New Year is well underway bringing winter weather, reflections and thoughts of what God has called us to do.

As we begin the Lenten season, it is a perfect time to shed old ways that kept us still. It is a time to release fears and reasons that held us back from breaking through our comfort zones. Stepping out in complete faith is never easy, but it will bring us to a deeper relationship with Christ.

Lent is our most precious journey. It is a time to walk Christ's journey, taking time to become one with Him. For me it will be disciplining myself to read a scripture each day, praying on understanding the message and how I am called to apply it to my daily walk. Spiritual preparation will be different for each of us during Lent, but through prayer we will be able to open our hearts to His work, His frustrations and His pain. By doing so we can then truly celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

Thank you for your continued support to Old South Haven News. It is one more way our congregation can reach out and nurture our mission.

Blessings to all, Linda



## 2013 Morning Worship Assignments July - December

DATE	GREETER	LAY READER	COFFEE HOUR
Jan 6	K. Tilney	B. Mullaahy	Best/Bird
Jan 13	J. Barry	K. Barry	Tilney/Wiswall
Jan 20	L. Gallo	D. Mayo	Neal/Unny
Jan 27	Morgan	D. Jones	Burgess/Gallo
Feb 3	K. Tilney	L. Majowka	Frankie/Majowka
Feb 10	S. Moran	F. Decker	G. LaFace
Feb 17	L. Gallo	J. Neal	Stevens
Feb 24	Morgan	S. Moran	Scott/Tilney
Mar 3	K. Tilney	C. Taylor	Hall/Mayo
Mar 10	J. Neal	A. Stevens	Best/Bird
Mar 17	J. Barry	D. Mayo	Neal/Unny
Mar 24	L. Gallo	K. Barry	Tilney
Mar 31/Easter	Morgan	J. Deitz	R. Thomas
Apr 7	K. Tilney	L. Majowka	Burgess/Gallo
Apr 14	S. Moran	F. Decker	G. LaFace
Apr 21	L. Gallo	P. Angus	Frankie/Majowka
Apr 28	Morgan	B. Mullaahy	Bird/Scott
May 5	K. Tilney	N. Best	Stevens
May 12	J. Barry	S. Moran	Angus/Tilney
May 19	L. Gallo	C. Taylor	Neal/Unny
May 26	Morgan	A. Stevens	Best
June 2	K. Tilney	J. Neal	Tilney/Wiswall
June 9	S. Moran	D. Jones	Hall/Mayo
June 16	J. Neal	L. Majowka	Frankie/Majowka
June 23	L. Gallo	S. Moran	Stevens
June 30	Morgan	F. Decker	G. LaFace

COMMUNION: JANUARY/Majowka; FEBRUARY/Moran

## Property and Finance Committee

*Kappy Tilney*

The last of the Town of Brookhaven Caithness Grant money was used to pave the church walkways, and safety improvements to our exterior lighting. Most of the walk had receded into a distant memory and we are fortunate in their return. The Caithness Grant project over the last three years also enabled important improvements including repainting of the church interior, re-roofing, and window and structural repairs.

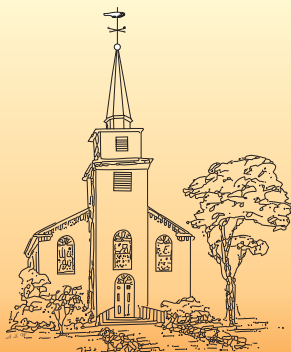
Thanks to a grant by the Swezey Foundation and a donation by a community member, we were able to purchase a new piano for the sanctuary.

As reported at the Annual Meeting, we ended the year 2012 with a modest increase in our net assets.

Even though income for our general fund programs was down by about 5% compared to 2011, expenditures decreased by 10%, largely due to the mild winter resulting in significantly reduced fuel and snow removal costs. However, estimates of income and expenses for 2013 suggest that there may be a significant deficit.

During 2012 there were two "official" property clean-ups, spring and fall, respectively. However, many church chores are undertaken by volunteers who, though unheralded and unsung, are not unappreciated!

The Memorial Garden received tender, loving care from Claudia Taylor and "crew" (a fluctuating group whose core consists of Shirley MacKay, Darcy Stevens, Richard Thomas, and Tom Philipp). Many thanks to you all!



## Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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