

## Pastor's Corner

### In the Midst of the Hectic Season



I turned on the TV for the news the other evening just at that time when the entertainment correspondent was giving his report. It began: "The hectic season is here!..." He then listed the number of new movies to open in the next few weeks, the opening of a few Broadway shows and Radio City's extravaganza, as well as concerts, recitals, and a host of other offerings during the Holiday Season.

Yes, "the hectic season". Cards to be sent, house parties, presents to be bought and wrapped, house decorating, special music for church, etc.

Hopefully, it is joy producing: music on the street corners and at the shopping centers, colorful and creative store windows, hearing from friends across the miles, finding that perfect present you wanted to buy and give as a gift, watching the eyes of children light up in surprise and wonderment, exchanging best wishes and really mean it.

A Season of Joy, Anticipation, Expectation and Goodwill. A Season when many of the scheduled activities nurture friendships, and warm the heart, and yet ..... "The hectic season!"

In this hectic season I have decided I need to take on one more

activity. I have decided that no matter how busy is the pace on any day, I will take a portion of time to be away from it all: a time for quietude and solitude, when I will not be busy giving, or preparing, or entertaining.



Rather, in quietude and solitude, I will be posed to receive: receiving the Gift of Christmas. In quietude and solitude, I will acknowledge again the still small voice that would break through the noise and the clamor, the busyness and inattentiveness, the still small voice that calls me to dwell on God Incarnate, the Reason for the Season.

*"How silently, how silently,  
 The wondrous Gift is  
 given  
 So God imparts to human  
 hearts The Blessings of  
 His heaven.  
 No ear may hear His  
 Coming, But in this  
 world of sin,  
 Where meek souls will  
 receive Him, still the  
 dear Christ enters in."*

Pastor Tom Philipp

### Advent Season of Events At Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

**First Sunday of Advent - Dec. 3**  
 - Lighting the Candle of Hope

Sermon: "Stand Up and Raise Your Heads"

**Second Sunday of Advent - Dec. 10**  
 - Lighting the Candle of Peace

Sermon: "Dream of Peace"

**Monday - Dec. 11** - Pastor Tom's Christmas Dinner Party at the Manse for Deacons, Session Members, Officers, Staff and Spouses

**Saturday - Dec. 16** - Christmas Caroling with Carolers from Bellport Methodist Church 2-5 pm Visiting home bound members of both congregations

**Third Sunday of Advent - Dec. 17** - Lighting the Candle of Joy

Sermon: "Insignificant Places and Insignificant People"

**Sunday afternoon: 4:00pm** Tree Decorating and Stuffing Christmas Stockings. Soup and Sandwich

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Dec. 24** - Lighting the Candle of Love

Sermon: "The First Christmas Carol"

**CHRISTMAS EVE --- 11:00 PM** - A Candle Light Service Lighting the Christ Candle A Service of Lessons and Carols with several of our members reading the scriptures passages that tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child, interspersed with singing carols and special music.

## Outreach & Mission

Joann Neal

**December 1 was World Wide AIDS Awareness Day.** United Way and other organizations hosted a dinner dance for people infected with HIV and AIDS and anyone working in the many clinics and organizations who provide services to them. My band was invited to play at this event and they were able to witness and understand the ramifications of this devastating disease first hand. During one part of the program, everyone lit their battery operated candles while "We are the World" was playing. Then two microphones were sent around and people were able to speak the names of family and friends who had died of AIDS.



Two of the children in my band became aware that a close relative had died from this disease and had never been told. The children were shocked; after getting over the initial shock they gathered materials to take home so they could learn to protect themselves. It was a real learning experience for the group.

In the last newsletter, I shared about my mother's heartwarming trip to Dominica. Since then my mother has received phone calls from two of her cousins in Dominica and one cousin who lives in Bay Shore. Plans are underway to meet the Bay Shore cousin over the Christmas vacation. My mother is overjoyed to have had the opportunity to travel to the birth place of her father and now wants to visit Grenada where her mother was born.

I have not received word yet on when Jason will be arriving in the States. I will let you know when I learn of a date.

*More information on Heifer International may be found at <http://www.heifer.org/>  
More information on World AIDS Day may be found at <http://www.worldaidsday.org/>*

## Deacons

Kappy Tilney

The Deacons provided Thanksgiving turkeys, with all the trimmings, for two local families. We hope to offer similar help at Christmas.

As we enter Advent and the season of giving, the Deacons will be supporting several organizations and individuals.

Locally, Christmas stockings will again be provided for the residents of the Brookhaven Town House for Adults. \$50 has been donated to The Ministries, the interfaith ministry in Coram. \$100 has been given to Amy Starke for her continuing education. Amy's inspirational work with Doctors Without Borders, as detailed at the November potluck Supper, epitomizes the gift of giving.

On an international level, the Deacons plan to send a donation of \$100 to Heifer International. "Since 1944, Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. In areas where hunger and despair once prevailed, Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities through livestock, training and "passing on the gift". Heifer International works exclusively in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty."

In the spirit of good shepherds, the Deacons decided to donate a sheep (at a cost of \$120) in the congregation's name.



The Deacons continue to send cards and flowers to members and friends as needs arise. If you are aware of a situation in which a visit would be helpful, please contact Tom (286-2030) or Kappy (286-0024).

The Deacon's Fund depends on the continuing generosity of the congregation. As you give thought to your Christmas giving, please consider the deacons' work. A check made payable to Old South Haven Presbyterian Church (noting the Deacons Fund) will enable the Deacons to continue to minister to those in need "and feed them with a shepherd's care".

## An Appeal for The Ministries

Alan Stevens

Born in the 60's, the 'Ecumenical Movement' may die, on Long Island at least, sometime in 2007 if The Ministries is forced to close its doors.

The Ministries, an interfaith ministry to those 'least of our brethren' was founded 40 years ago by the Presbytery of Long Island making common cause, in the spirit of the times, with other denominations – Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, UU and UCC members, and Temple Isaiah in Stony Brook. Originally Smith Haven Ministries, located near the Mall, the organization later changed its name and moved to Coram, an area more densely populated by those in need.

Today, The Ministries serves approximately 17,000 disadvantaged clients each year in Suffolk and Nassau counties by providing an extensive food and clothing facility, family counseling, community information referral, and a number of youth services including as teen runaway shelter.

But The Ministries is in trouble. Although the number of people who need assistance with the necessities of life continues to grow, our ability to raise enough money to keep up with demand has not kept pace. In addition, the loss of a sizable Federal grant aimed at assisting the homeless has put The Ministries into a financial crisis. People are incredibly generous with toys, clothing and food, but none of these items pay rent, utilities and salaries.

Several members of OSHPC, past and present, including our Interim Pastor Tom Philipp, both Bob and Jeanne Baum, and myself have been associated with The Ministries over the years.

The Session has endorsed this appeal as a part of Old South Haven's local mission effort. I ask that you please consider, in this holiday season, making a contribution. Should you decide to do so, please make out checks to Old South Haven Presbyterian Church with "The Ministries" in the comment field, or any form of contribution in an envelope marked "The Ministries" and placed in the offering plates would be very, very, very appreciated.

*Smith Haven Ministries, Inc.,  
The Ministries  
3680 Route 112, Coram, NY 11727  
(631) 736-4800*





## From The Music Department

Peg Angus

The organ installation is complete and tonal finishing is scheduled for December 10th. This will take care of any additional tuning of pipes and some minor adjustments. It accompanied our worship for the first time on Sunday, December 3rd – appropriately the first Sunday of Advent and a new church year.

I am very pleased with the job done by the Odell Organ Builders. They did far more for us than we anticipated.

The organ committee wants to express acknowledgments for all the preparatory work done: Farrell Decker, for the big job of repairing and painting the window in the organ chamber; Helen Altomare, Richard Thomas and John Deitz for painting the ceiling, walls and floor of the chamber. Great Job, everyone! It is now clean and bright for the organ tuners. The Odell's also installed lighting inside the organ.

A great big "Thanks" to John Deitz for his generous contribution for the redesign, painting and stenciling of the façade pipes. One needs to look at the before and after photos to truly appreciate what an enhancement this is.

I also want to thank the organ renovation committee for their help in making the many decisions to bring about this project: Richard Thomas, Helen Altomare, Steve Welgoss, Cathy Kellogg, and Betty Gardner.

We will be working on a rededication service and a series of recitals on the organ. If there are any instrumentalists out there who would like to donate their time and talent to this series, let us know.

The choir will be singing almost every Sunday in Advent, as well as Christmas Eve.

Let us continue to glorify God in our music.

Principal funds for the organ restoration project come from a Bequest of the estate of Roger Kickerer, a member and elder of this congregation in the 60's and early 70's.

More on the Hinners Organ can be found at the church's web site: <http://OldSouthHavenChurch.org/History/HinnersOrgan.htm>

## Christmas Joy Offering



Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to an Advent offering. The Christmas Joy Offering dates back to the 1930's when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement incomes and private supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers and their families. It was first officially called the Joy Gift in 1949.

There have been several changes made over the years in terms of expanding the uses for this offering so that today 50% goes to the Board of Pensions meeting the original goals of the 1930's and 50% goes to meet the needs of racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Opportunity will be given for individuals to contribute at OSHPC through special Joy envelopes which will be available at Sunday morning worship on December 17 and Dec 24. Checks can be made out to OSHPC with the notation for the Joy Offering.



### The façade before the 2006 renovation.

*There were three mitered (elbowed) pipes in the façade (can you find them?), probably done in 1961 in order for the organ to fit it into the steeple niche when the organ was moved to Church. There were also two large mitered pipes behind the façade.*



### The façade after the 2006 renovation

*The Odell Company converted all the mitered pipes to Haskell pipes (a special design that eliminates the need for mitering) and reshaped other pipes to a more pleasing design. The seven pipes to either side of the pedestals are non speaking pipes.*



## Christmas Caroling

What is Christmas without the opportunity to be a caroler bringing joy and love to members and friends of our Congregation and others. This year we have an unique opportunity. Pastor Tom has arranged with the Bellport Methodist Church to join forces, so that we should have at least 20 or more joining together to sing to both members of our Congregatiuon as well as theirs and making a visit to the Home on Beaver Dam Road. The date and time is **Saturday, Dec. 16, from 2 pm to 5 pm.** We will meet at the Bellport Methodist Church. We will finish up with hot cider and donuts. Come join in on the fun. You don't have to be a good singer to spread the joy of Christmas to others.



## Thank You!

This year's Stewardship Campaign Committee thanks all those who have made pledges for 2007. This was the first campaign for pledges since 2004 and as of December 4, 2006 eighteen individuals and families have made pledges. These pledges represent a sizable increase in giving. This is all very good news.

Coupled with this good news, however, is the fact that the amount pledged to date is below what is anticipated to be needed in income for next year to meet expenses. We trust that those who have not made a financial commitment as of yet might give serious consideration to do so.

A Budget is being worked on for next year which would indicate a deficit of between \$7,000 and \$10,000 even with maintaining programs at the current level.

Some very exciting things have happened here in the past several months. A bequest made possible renovation of the organ, lighting has been improved, shrubbery has been cut back and shaped, Sunday morning worship attendance has risen, adult education has had one successful program and a second series is being planned. It is a good time for OSHPC to plan for a continuing vital ministry in this community. It needs the support fo us all.

*The Stewardship Committee*



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## Buildings and Grounds

Helen Altomare

This week Chris Bland, the contractor, will begin work repairing structural problems on the church. The walls on the left corner of the sanctuary near the piano are sagging and cracking. This is caused by the sill under that corner of the building rotting and the wall bowing out.

The building has to be lifted at that end and the rotten wood replaced. The project will take approximately two weeks.

### Post Morrow Foundation Grant

We are thankful to the Post-Morrow Foundation of Brookhaven Hamlet for a \$10,000 grant to the Church which nearly covers the cost of the Church repairs.

