

Pastor's Corner

"Reminiscences"

Pastor Tom Philipp



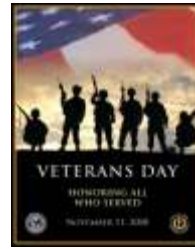
We will soon be celebrating two of the most joyous holidays of the year: Thanksgiving and Christmas. For most of us these have been family-centered events. In preparing my column for this edition of our Newsletter, I have been thinking how each was observed in the Philipp family as I was growing up. In sharing my remembrances with you I offer you a challenge and an opportunity. I am asking you to think back to how you observed these two holidays as children, or, how you have celebrated them as adults. I would encourage you to print these out (legible handwriting is permissible also!) and we will collect them to be put in two albums: one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. These albums would be available in the Gallery for the interest and reading pleasure of others. Let me start it off.

In the Philipp family (my parents, my brother, and myself) Thanksgiving was celebrated with Thanksgiving Dinner served on the holiday at 3:00 pm (or was it four?) at our house. We always had the same guests: Tom and Elizabeth Cummings, and Elizabeth's maiden sister Helen. Before my grandmother and grandfather came to live with us, I remember Helen always meticulously dressed and having made a stop at her hairdresser the previous day. After dinner Helen would entertain us at the piano. She played by ear, playing in a style of jazz and swing mix and bouncing up and down on the piano bench as she played. My brother and I loved this and our laughing and clapping kept the concert going.

Mother always made a big turkey stuffed with a dressing just like her Mother's. There was always a small duck served as well, because Tom Cummings loved duck and not turkey. There were both white potatoes and sweet potatoes, three other vegetables, and three different pies for dessert.

Thanksgiving morning my brother and I were sent off to a church service so that we would not get in Mother's way. The church service was filled typically with husbands and children being there for the same reason as Bill and myself! Later one of us would get stuck with offering grace before dinner. Neither of us really cared to do this. Both of us later ended up in the ministry.

I also loved the day after Thanksgiving for I loved leftovers...still do to this day.



Veterans' Day Service "Serving Those Who Have Served"

On Veterans' Day, November 11, Bellport Methodist and Old South Haven Presbyterian will host a service in our sanctuary at 7:30 pm to honor those who have served in the military and, particularly those who have served or are presently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rev. Erik Rasmussen and Rev. Thomas Philipp will be leading a service of prayer and reflections. They will be joined by Rev. Wayne Olson, Chaplain, VA Medical Center, Northport and others from the VA community who will engage us in a dialogue and discussion of the medical and rehabilitation needs of many of these men and women.

In an article in the Bellport Methodist Church Newsletter, Pastor Erik has written:

"We come to another year of war in the Middle east, and with it the deployment of men and women far from home and in harm's way. Most will spend a Christmas (and maybe not the first) away from loved ones in this distant place. Others, who have come home already, will still not be celebrating either Thanksgiving or Christmas the way they had anticipated. They are in hospital beds or rehabs, in counseling or getting used to prostheses as they seek to exorcize the demons of the conflict from lives that have been permanently altered. Even as we hold many divergent opinions about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we share a common bond of concern for those who have served and who are serving."

An invitation is extended to veterans in our area to attend.



Thanksgiving Community Service Sunday, November 23, 7:00pm

Old South Haven will host the annual Community Thanksgiving Service. The service will be conducted by the clergy of local congregations. The preacher will be Father John Mellitt, the newly arrived Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Church. A choir of choir members from several congregations will present a choral piece. Those attending this service are encouraged to bring food goods which will be given to the I.N.N.

“Blessed be the Lord God”

November is the time that most churches conduct a stewardship campaign in which they receive pledges to underwrite the church's budget for the following year. This year we will have Stewardship Sunday on November 16. Pledges will be received and dedicated the following Sunday, November 23, which is Thanksgiving Sunday.



This year's theme is “Blessed be the Lord God” (Luke 1:68), which comes from the song of Zechariah – celebrating the birth of John the Baptist and announcing the birth of the Christ. It is a song of celebration, gratitude, visions, and hope.

Music can often express what is otherwise inexpressible. Lyrics, melody, and rhythm combine to help communicate the deepest moving of the soul. This year we want to think of giving in the context of worship. Each week we sing as the offering is brought forward and dedicated: our giving is in response to God's greatest gift in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Tom indicates that our stewardship campaign this year, with an emphasis on singing, will put us in the mood of thanksgiving. “Remember”, said he, “God loves a cheerful giver.”



A Word About Church Finances

John Deitz

So far during 2008, the congregation's General Program Fund has been operating at a deficit. The General Program Fund is the principal operating fund of the church – expenses such as the Pastor's and Organist's salaries, fuel, insurance, and general maintenance. The main source of income for this fund is your undesignated giving and building use contributions. As reported at the Annual Meeting, a deficit was expected, but is considerably more than anticipated.

2008 has been a tough year financially for many of us. 2009 is likely to continue so. For those who are able, please consider an extra “year end” gift.



Good News for Charitable Gifts

Buried in the \$700 billion economic bailout bill (H.R. 1424, Financial Rescue Package) is a two year extension of the IRA Rollover provision as well as other charitable giving provisions. The provision is retroactive to January 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made from 1/1/08 through 12/31/09.

Christmas observance for me began with the Church School Christmas Program held on a Sunday afternoon a week or two before the Holiday. There was the pageant followed by a dinner. There were roles in the pageant for every child: not just the Holy Family (Jesus was a doll placed in a manger) but shepherds, sheep, angels, wise men, and the inn keeper. All speaking parts were memorized and there were at least three rehearsals before the big day. There was always a packed house, parents had to show up to see their child.

Dad would buy the Christmas tree a few days before Christmas. He always picked out one which others would pass by. I think he felt sorry for the unselected tree. He would bring it home and repair it: drilling holes and sticking branches in those areas of the tree where there were none. He truly was a craftsman when it came to repairing Christmas trees! He would string the lights on the tree and my brother and I would then put on the ornaments. Brother Bill always put on the tinsel, strand by strand, each strung just right. When Bill was not home to do this job I would strew the tinsel on and let it land where it would land!

There was the 11pm Christmas Eve Service timed to end exactly at midnight. It was not Lessons and Carols. Rev. Krebs preached a long sermon just as he did each Sunday. Sunday morning services, however, were one hour and fifteen minutes. Christmas Eve was just one hour! Then it was home to open presents. Not all presents were under the tree. Special gifts, such as a bicycle, would be brought it at an appropriate time. One year Bill received one and another year I did: both were second hand bikes that Dad had fixed up. New bikes were too expensive for our family budget. Christmas wrappings were gathered up carefully because one year some money had been thrown out with the wrappings!

Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day had the same guests as on Thanksgiving and, yes, Helen was asked to favor us with a few numbers at the piano.

We enjoyed leftovers from that Dinner for several days. I loved that.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Don't forget to write up your celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas for our two albums.



The provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred (“rolled over”) from an IRA to a charitable organization, which can save donors on taxes while also yielding gifts for charities such as Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. The following limitations apply:

The donor must be age 70 1/2 or older

The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000

The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts)

(based on information from the Long Island Council of Churches)



Fellowship: Lunch Bunch

Ann Wiswall

The Lunch Bunch meets once a month at the home of one of its members. On November 3rd the group will meet at Helen Starke's at 69 Bay Road, Brookhaven. Nancy Best has invited us to meet on December 1st at her home, 360 South Country Road, Brookhaven. Those who are free at lunch time (12:30pm) are welcome to come with their lunch and share each other's company and conversation.

As Fellowship Chair, I want to thank everyone who helps by hosting the Sunday Coffee Hour. This provides an opportunity for fellowship after the morning Worship service. It is a time when we can welcome any visitors and keep in touch with our fellow members.



Board of Deacons

Kappy Tilney

The Deacons hosted a fall supper on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Due to the additional congregational assistance, the Deacons served an ample autumnal meal. It was a welcome time of conversation and comestibles. Thanks to the many helping hands.

As in the past, the Deacons will be delivering Thanksgiving baskets to some families in the community. When planning your family meal, perhaps you would purchase a food item for the community baskets (i.e. stuffing, cranberry sauce, yams and canned vegetables). Whatever you can do, will be most appreciated.

Over the years, the Deacons have made it a Christmas practice to put together "stockings" for the residents of the Brookhaven Town House on Beaver Dam Road. Last year Old South Haven supplied stockings for the 182 residents. Thinking of practical and useful stocking stuffers has been a challenge. If you have any suggestions, bearing in mind the numbers needed, please share your thoughts with your Board of Deacons (Janet Barry, Katherine Frankie, Catherine Kellogg, Bill Scott, Kappy Tilney or Steve Welgoss.

The Deacons wish to thank the congregation their continued and ongoing generosity to the Deacon's Fund. In considering your end of year contributions, please, if you are able continue your generous support.

The Christian Community in Iraq

Religious leaders around the world, including those in the Presbyterian Church (USA) are asking their members to pray for the Christian community in Iraq, particularly the northern city of Mosul, where more than two dozen Christians have been murdered in October by militant Sunnis. Mosul, the second most populous city in Iraq, is the site of the ancient biblical city of Ninevah and home to one of Iraq's five Presbyterian-Reformed congregations. Hundreds of Christians have fled Mosul since the spate of killings began.

General Assembly Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Bruce Reyes-Chow, has sent a letter to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki urging Iraqi government protection for their Christian citizens. It said in part: "We write to you today out of a grave concern for the Christian community of Mosul. As any other minority in Iraq, they should be defended against the recent terrorist acts, which seem intended to eliminate the Christian presence in the region."

Looking Ahead to Advent and Christmas

As in the past two years we will coordinate Advent and Christmas bulletin covers with bulletin inserts and posters. The themes for the four weeks of Advent and Christmas will be Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Grace. Each week inserted in the bulletin will be a four page reflection on art and scripture, on those themes, that can be read at home and be part of a 'at home' preparation for the great Holiday. Pastor Tom will be preaching on those themes as well.



Let this Advent Season be a personal devotional pilgrimage to the great affirmation of Christmas that "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself."

In this time of war being conducted in both Iraq and Afghanistan, economic unrest being compared to that of the Great Depression, an election and a new Presidency, may the Advent promise and the Christmas fulfillment bring hope, peace, joy, love and grace to our individual lives and our life together at Old South Haven.

An Afternoon with Cecilia Brauer and the Armonica Sunday, November 30

We are proud to present Cecilia Brauer and her program "Ben Franklin and the Armonica" in our church sanctuary on this first Sunday of Advent, as we begin our preparations for Christmas. Ms. Brauer has been an associate member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra since 1972 where she plays the celeste, and when on tour, the piano. She studied the piano with Isabelle Vengerova at



the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In 1991, Cecilia added a new dimension to her very successful piano career, namely, the Armonica, invented by Franklin. She is now one of only a handful of musicians in the world actively involved playing on this instrument. She has given the program she will be presenting at OSH at countless museums, historical sites, libraries, social organizations, etc. She will include several Christmas Carols in her program. You may learn more about her and her appearances by going to her website at www.gigmasters.com/armonica/index.asp

A free will offering will be received.

Cecilia was a neighbor and good friend of Pastor Tom in Merrick.



Music Department

“Mozart Gives Hearts a Better Beat”

Such is the headline in an article in Newsday, October 25. The article indicated that a new study found that elderly patients who listened to a 12 minute Mozart sonata three times a week significantly lowered their blood pressure and heart rate. (The same study revealed that listening to a CD with the sounds of ocean waves has the same effect!) The study was released at an American Heart association conference last month.

So if Danny plays Mozart periodically we can not only enjoy the pleasant sounds, we can experience health benefits.

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Pride in The Pulpit

As Pastor of a More Light Presbyterian Church which affirms the full participation of LGBT persons in all aspects of the church's life including that of church leadership, I have become active in Pride in the Pulpit, a program of the Empire State Pride Agenda. This program involves hundreds of congregations and leaders of denominations and faith traditions seeking to win equality and justice for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender New Yorkers and their families. To this end, I have worked with Pride in the Pulpit in Long Island which is just being organized. The first meeting drew about 20 clergy and lay leaders.

Pastor Tom

Morning Worship Assignments

	Greeter	Lay Reader	Coffee Hour
Nov 9	S. Moran	F. Deckerl	G. Decker
Nov 16	J. Sullivan	D. Jones	C. Kellogg
Nov 23	J. Frankie (K)	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
Nov 30	K. Morgan	N. Best	D. Stevens
Dec 7	W. Scott	L. Scott	J. Neal
Dec 14	S. Moran	J. Neal	P. Light
Dec 21	J. Frankie (K)	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
Dec 24	J. Neal	J. Deitz	J. Deitz
Dec 28	K. Morgan	S. Moran	A. Wiswall



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Film Series for November - January

Second Mondays, 7 pm, in the Gallery

Monday, November 10. “Hail the Conquering Hero”

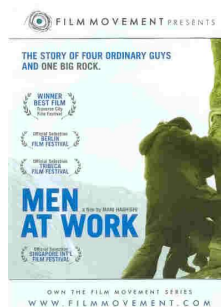
In this 1944 Preston Sturgis comedy, Woodrow Lafayette Pershing Truesmith (Eddie Bracken), having been discharged from the Marines for a hay fever condition before ever seeing action, delays the return to his hometown, feeling that he is a failure. While in a moment of melancholy, he meets up with a group of Marines who befriend him and encourage him to return home to his mother by fabricating a story that he was wounded in battle with honorable discharge. They make him wear a uniform complete with medals and is pushed by his new friends into accepting a Hero's welcome when he gets home where he is to be immortalized by a statue that he doesn't want, has songs written about his heroic battle stories, and ends up unwillingly running for mayor. Despite his best efforts to explain the truth, no one will listen. **All welcome. Bring a friend.**



Monday, Dec 8. **To be determined**

Monday, January 12th. “Men at Work”

This film is a comedy about four old friends who, driving back from a failed skiing trip, encountering a strange and enormous rock. The men's frivolous attempt to dislodge the rock gradually disintegrates into a tale of betrayal, defeat and renewed hope. The heroes of the film are doctors, engineers and businessmen in the throes of mid-life crises. Their middleclass problems and the absurd phallic rock venture gives rise to great humor. (2006, Iran, Farsi with English subtitles). **All welcome. Bring a friend.**



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We Welcome a New Carriage House Tenant

We welcome a Group Mediation group now meeting in the Carriage House on Friday nights from 8:15pm to 9:30pm Among the Aims and Ideals of Self-Relationship Fellowship are the following:

To reveal the complete harmony and basic oneness of original Christianity as taught by Jesus Christ and original Yoga as taught by Bhagavan Krishna; and to show that these principles of truth are the common scientific foundations of all true religions.

To overcome evil by good, sorrow by joy, cruelty by kindness, ignorance by wisdom.

To unite science and religion through realization of the unity of their underlying principles.

The group had been meeting in a Baptist Church in Southampton but most of their attendees live closer to us. We have welcomed a couple from this group as they have attended our Sunday morning worship.