

Pastor's Corner

Compliments are Nice

Pastor Tom Philipp



It is nice when visitors to our Church or nonmember readers of our weekly e mails and bimonthly newsletters pay us compliments. The compliments from visitors give credence to our desire to be a welcoming congregation, and compliments of our e mails and newsletters give credence to the fact that we take seriously and address the issues of society and church and have them on our agenda.

The other evening I had dinner with The Rev. Ellen Marquardt, the Interim Presbytery Executive of The Presbytery of Long Island. A few weeks ago she and her husband, Bill, attended our morning worship. At dinner she told me that the two of them had visited several of the churches in the Presbytery during the past several months. Almost all of them had a coffee hour after worship. Ours was the only one where a member welcomed them after the service and invited them (and led them!) to the coffee hour. Ours was the one that engaged them in conversation, and in a conversation that was not 'probing' but congenial. Thank you Old South Haven.

On a couple of occasions a young couple from Ronkonkoma have visited. At the coffee hour after their first visit they commented to me that they were impressed at the way Bobby, who joins the children for the 'talk with the children,' and Steve, who has 'acted up' in worship, are fully accepted by our congregation. Last Sunday, four year old Jack went to Steve and welcomed him back after Steve's absence since the Sunday he acted up. Thank you Old South Haven.

Earlier this month I was asked to be a speaker at the Huntington Cinema Center after the showing of "The Bible Tells Me So", a documentary film that deals with Christian parents responding to a son or daughter when the son or daughter announces being gay. In my remarks I praised our congregation for being a More Light Congregation, where each individual is accepted as a child of God and can be elected to any office in our congregation without regard to the person's sexual orientation. Thank you Old South Haven.

Last Sunday, I attended the annual meeting and party of the South Country Peace Group. I serve on their Board. A woman sought me out to tell me how much she appreciated receiving and reading our News Letter. Then she referred to my article on the care of

Continued, Page 2

Welcome to Danny Corneliusen

Darcy Stevens,
Personnel Committee

OSHC welcomes Daniel Corneliusen, our new Organist and Choir Director as of January 1. Danny is a graduate student in harpsichord performance at SUNY Stony Brook and has a BA in piano performance from Virginia Tech.

Thank you, Danny for sharing your musical gifts with us!

Danny's arrival is bittersweet, of course, since it came as a result of our beloved Peggy's retirement. She has graciously been orienting Danny to the organ and to the music program over the last few months. We are thrilled that she is now a part of the choir.

Please join us at a dinner party in her honor on February 9th at 6:00 PM in the Post Carriage House. Speak to Darcy (286-9278) or any choir member for details.



Music Department

Danny Corneliusen

I am lucky to have found Old South Haven Church and to be the new organist and choir director. I have received a warm welcome from Pastor Tom, the choir and the congregation. I'm also grateful to Peggy Angus who gave so much love and care into her work at our church.

The opportunities here for me are exciting, playing the wonderful organ and working with the choir. We are always happy to have people sing in the choir. Please join us on Thursday night if you are interested. Pretty soon we will have to find more seating space in the choir loft! (Isn't that a lovely thought?)

There are a few things I would like to see accomplished. I am hoping to get our harpsichord in playing condition; eventually we may try to move it back downstairs. The piano at our church is a nice instrument, however, I (perhaps selfishly) think we deserve a better one some day. I may be slightly biased since piano is what I studied as an undergraduate.

Looking forward to all the things this year will bring. I am indeed happy to have my new job at Old South Haven and hope I will do well with all the responsibilities this job brings.

Thank you,

Danny

Film Series

The film series has been moved to the second Monday of every month, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 11 -
"Yesterday"



This 2004 South African film tells the story of Yesterday who, after falling ill, learns that she is HIV positive. With her husband in denial and young daughter to tend to, Yesterday's one goal is to live long enough to see her child go to school. Swahili with English sub-titles (this is your chance to hear Swahili spoken).

Monday, March 10 - "Maria Full of Grace"



In this 2004 film, Maria is a poor teenager, living in Columbia, and working in a sweatshop cutting roses to be shipped to America. When she discovers she is pregnant, she begins to think about the kind of life she has to offer her baby. Knowing her boyfriend is a deadbeat and will not support her, Maria begins to seek other ways to make money. She is persuaded to become a mule, smuggling cocaine into the USA for a good deal of money. She swallows little tubes of cocaine until her stomach becomes too full to hold anymore. Maria and three other mules including Maria's best friend Blanca board a plane to the US. Once in New York, things get crazy as two of the mules are detained for possible drug smuggling, including Maria. All she can think about is her baby and what will happen next. Spanish with English subtitles. Rated R

Compliments are Nice

Continued from Page 1

animals. She said "Old South Haven addresses issues and concerns that mean much to me." Thank you Old South Haven.

In another conversation we got talking about the films in our monthly film series. One of the individuals with whom I spoke was impressed with the significant films we have shown, such as "Good Night and Good Luck," the film about Edward R. Murrow taking on Sen. Joseph McCarthy. "I think that is wonderful," he said. Thank you Old South Haven.

In my Christmas greetings to my friends across the States, I said: "I find great joy in my 'retirement' of serving this small but vital congregation in this lovely community." Thank you Old South Haven.

I have found at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church a warm welcoming congregation wishing to embrace diversity in thinking, commitment, life style, abilities and capabilities (or lack of): a true family where unity does not mean uniformity. I have found here a congregation that understands the mandate found in the teachings and ministry of Jesus Christ, and makes that mandate its own, never wishing to escape from the conflicts and tensions and, seemingly, insolvable problems of the world in which we live, but, rather address these in the name of justice and compassion. So, at the end of one calendar year and the beginning of another I say from the bottom of my heart:

THANK YOU OLD SOUTH HAVEN

2007 Congregational Life Committee

Ann Wiswall

We are pleased that Tom Philipp's niece and her son will be with us on January 27th. They will take part in the Sunday Morning Service and share their experiences working with the Heifer Project. After the morning service there will be a brunch in the Carriage House so that we can meet and talk with our guests.

During the past year, the Fellowship Committee and Deacons hosted several pot luck suppers and brunches at which members could enjoy good food and conversation (brunch on Feb. 25th, supper on Mar. 25th, brunch on Aug. 12th and luncheon on Oct. 28th).



A recent brunch in November was held to honor Jason Neal before he left for duty in Iraq.

The Monday Lunch Group continues to meet at 12:30 PM on the first Monday of the month. Each participant brings his/her own lunch and we enjoy a time together for conversation and exchange of ideas and interests. Meetings are in the Church Gallery or at a member's home. Check the Church bulletin or call 286-0384 for information.

All are welcome.

2007 Report from the Board of Deacons

Kappy Tilney, President



Last year the Deacons resumed responsibility for the worship assignment list, previously prepared so ably by Ann Wiswall. Thank you Ann!

The Deacons started an altar flower list and began the practice of sending hand-written "Welcome Notes" to visitors. Should anyone wish to donate flowers in honor/memory of someone, the list is on the Gallery bulletin board.

During the year, cards, flowers and gifts were sent or delivered to members and friends.

At Thanksgiving two local families received food baskets with all the "trimmings". The Deacons also provided monetary assistance to two members of a local Presbyterian Church. Thanksgiving flowers were delivered to two Old South Haven members.

On December 16th Christmas stockings for the residents of the Brookhaven Town House were stuffed and tied with ribbon. The stockings were delivered to 182 residents on December 21st. A Christmas dinner was provided for a local family and answered a last-minute request for toys for two local children. Several church members received seasonal flowers and gifts.

2007 Food Shelf

The volunteers at St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry are always so appreciative of Old South Haven's contributions. Thank you all for remembering.

In 2007, 231 food items were delivered to St. Joseph. Some of the items were purchased with monetary donations for that purpose.

Session Met with Representatives from Presbytery's Committee on Ministry

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 17, the Session met with The Rev. Ellen Marquardt, Interim Presbytery Executive, and Elder Jim DeCastro, Clerk of Session at West Islip Church and a member of the Presbytery's Committee on ministry. Jim is serving as the liaison between that committee and our Church. The purpose of the visit was to review the relationship of the Interim Pastor and the Congregation. This visit is to take place annually for an Interim and, particularly before the end of two years and before any renewal of the relationship.

Though this should be a time for reviewing the work that has been accomplished, both the COM team and the Session immediately got into a discussion on Pastor Tom continuing after his contract ends at the end of March. The Session was assured that the contract may be renewed if both the Session and Pastor Tom so desire. Pastor Tom has indicated to the Session that he welcomes the opportunity to continue for there is work he feels compelled to see through that is not completed.

Chandelier Lowered and Cleaned

On November 24, the James Howell Post Memorial Chandelier was lowered, its 35 lights replaced with new energy efficient dimmable compact fluorescent bulbs, and the globes cleaned. Each new bulb is 5 watts; but equal in illumination to our old 25 watt bulbs. At our usage level, each bulb has an average life expectancy of 20 years.



A Dinner Party For Peggy Angus

Be sure you save the date of Saturday, February 9 for our "thank you" dinner for Peggy. The festivities start at 6:00 pm in the Carriage House.

Peggy has been more than our organist/choir director. Pastor Tome refers to her as our Minister of Music for she has enriched our worship life through her contribution of organ pieces and choir anthems that speak to the theme of a particular worship service.

We are thankful that upon her retirement she wishes to continue her involvement with us, and will continue to be in the choir loft, moving from the organ bench to a seat in the choir!

If you did not receive an invitation by mail, and wish to attend, please let Pastor Tom or Darcy Stevens know to make a reservation.



Christian Unity Week – No Longer Receiving Attention

Christian Unity Week came and went, receiving little attention, for most Christians this year, even though it was the 100th Anniversary of its first celebration! Beginning Friday, January 18th, it was mentioned at masses held that day in our area, but did not lead to any ecumenical service. In an earlier period of time there would have been an observance on the following Sunday evening which brought all the Christian communities of faith in the community together to speak to the theme of unity without uniformity. Pastor Tom has indicated that when he came to this area and inquired of his clergy colleagues whether such an observance was held he was told there was a lack of interest in doing so..

Peter Steinfels, New York Times columnist, writing the following day, asked "Has the ecumenical movement lost steam? Or has it, perhaps fallen victim to its own success? One way or the other, does it make any difference?" It seems people in the pews have other things on their mind. They take for granted that the painful barriers that kept Christians separated from each other in the past have been lowered. Have we accepted our diversity and, in fact, affirmed and applauded it so we need not draw attention to it anymore? I would point out, however, that in this year's political campaign the Religious Right has made some proposals which should shock other Christians and should be addressed in an united way!

Then, too, maybe today we need to address Christianity's relationship to other world religions Islam, in particular. That is why we here at Old South Haven observed Pentecost/ Pluralism Sunday last spring using the Pentecost scripture passage of "each heard in their own language" an opportunity to say that we need to acknowledge that peoples hear the word in their own language the language of their own culture and their own experiences. Maybe we need a week of observance of that reality and affirm it!

Pastor Tom



Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 10, 2008

The date has been set for the Annual Congregational Meeting to take place on Sunday, February 10 after Sunday

morning worship and "soup and sandwich".

The Nominating Committee will make its report on filling positions on the Session and the Board of Deacons for those whose terms have ended. In all cases, those whose terms are ended are eligible to serve a second term and have agreed to do so, upon the vote of the Congregation. Other names may be submitted from the floor.

We will hear reports from the various program areas, the Budget for 2008 adopted by the Session at its January meeting, will be presented for review. The meeting provides opportunity, as well, to discuss the 'life and work' of the Congregation.

Lenten Program

Ash Wednesday will soon be upon us – February 10th – with a worship service starting at 7:30 pm prepared by Elder Alan Stevens.

The **Wednesday Night Lenten Series** of the Mid Suffolk Parish has as its theme: "The Face of Discipleship" (The Disciplines of Faith). All programs start at 7:30 pm

- **February 13** at Old South Haven Church: "Worship and the importance of a worshipping community"
- **February 20** at Center Moriches: "Prayer"
- **February 27** at Yaphank: "Service and Social Justice"
- **March 5th** at Remsenburg: "Bible Study."
- **March 12th** at Middle Island.

On **Maundy Thursday**, March 20, 7 pm, we will be back at Old South Haven celebrating the Last Supper as a Seder Meal.

Officer Training Sunday March 2

The Mid Suffolk Parish Council will hold a joint officers training for elders and deacons at the Middle Island Presbyterian Church from 1:30 to 4:30. For those wishing to attend we will carpool.



PO Box 203
Brookhaven, NY 11719

Member's Reflections

A New Year

Linda Scott, Editor

Pastor Tom shared that we are blessed to be part of the Old South Haven family. As the New Year begins, let us go forward with hope, vision and faith. I pray we will continue our journey with creativity and much joy to broaden our vision. There is still much work to be done. The Old South Haven News is one way to reach out to all our friends and members, especially those unable to join us for Sunday Worship. I want to express my appreciation for all your past contributions and heartfelt messages. Let us continue working together as Christian brothers and sisters through this ministry. We never know how the Word of God can change someone's life.

Blessings to all,
Linda

Morning Worship Assignments

Date	Greeter	Lay Leader	Coffee Hour
Jan 6	W. Scott	L. Scott	H. Altomare
Jan 13	S. Moran	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
Jan 20	C. Kellogg	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
Jan 27	K. Morgan	S. Welgoss	N. Best
Feb 3	W. Scott	S. Moran	P. Light
Feb 10	S. Moran	N. Best	C. Kellogg
Feb 17	C. Kellogg	D. Jones	A. Wiswall
Feb 24	K. Morgan	F. Decker	G. Decker
Mar 2	W. Scott	J. Neal	H. Altomare
Mar 9	S. Moran	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
Mar 16/Palm Sunday	C. Kellogg	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
Mar 23/Easter	A. Wiswall	J. Deitz	R. Thomas
Mar 30	K. Morgan	L. Scott	P. Light
Apr 6	W. Scott	S. Welgoss	N. Best
Apr 13	C. Kellogg	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
Apr 20	S. Moran	L. Scott	C. Kellogg
Apr 27	K. Morgan	D. Jones	A. Wiswall
May 4	W. Scott	J. Neal	H. Altomare
May 11	S. Moran	F. Decker	G. Decker
May 18	C. Kellogg	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
May 25	K. Morgan	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
Jun 1	W. Scott	L. Scott	P. Light
Jun 8	S. Moran	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
Jun 15	C. Kellogg	J. Deitz	A. Wiswall
Jun 22	K. Barry	J. Barry	N. Best
Jun 26	K. Morgan	S. Welgoss	H. Altomare

Assignments are also posted on the church's web site:
<http://oldsouthhavenchurch.org>