

Pastor's Corner

Taking Inventory and Moving Ahead: Your Interim Pastor's Report



January is the time to take inventory. Your Interim Minister has completed nine months with you. This column and this time marker offers me the opportunity to reflect a bit on those nine months as well as list some projections for the next time period.

I had a colleague in campus minister here on Long Island for several years who used to keep a clip board near at hand. Hugh Nevin would jot down on his clip board all the things he needed to do. When a job was finished he drew a line through it. It is nice to know that something is done, completed, achieved. Of course some things remained on the clip board list for weeks or months (not so easily achieved) and maybe some would remain there forever.

What are some of the things (I had listed on my invisible clipboard) which I feel we have achieved together? In no specific order I would suggest the following list:

- + a full Board of Deacons and a full Session, with each member providing leadership.
- + the Deacons are providing a true pastoral ministry reaching out to those housebound. They are looking at the list of members of OSHPC who have become lax in attendance at worship. This remains as a priority item on the list of tasks that still need doing. They have also provided a significant ministry beyond our membership in providing financial and other tangibles to those in need in our community
- + improved outdoor lighting and signage, together with clearing out brush. These completed tasks have enhanced the church's appearance and made the Church visible to the traffic that passes on South Country Road
- + needed foundation work was done on one side of the Sanctuary, made possible by a grant..
- + the organ has been restored and we are thrilled with its rich tones.
- + we held a four week adult class on "The Life (lives) of Jesus" and will soon hold a series titled "Earth, Spirit and You." This series may well lead us to take a stance on certain areas of concern affecting the environment.

+ the church office has been cleaned out and both record books and files updated.

+ the church basement and the Carriage House basement have been cleared (somewhat!).

+ we have held church suppers as well as the weekly coffee hour which has aided our interaction and fellowship.

+ we conducted a Stewardship Campaign (not having one the previous year) with some increase in amounts pledged for 2007

+ Worship during the Advent-Christmas season was enriched with the use of colorful bulletin covers and weekly inserts for reading and meditation.

YES, MANY THINGS CAN BE SCRATCHED OFF THE "TO DO" LIST

But

Much To Be Done In The Next Several Months

+ a serious look at our financial situation, financial projections for the future, and developing a ministry and mission in light of that.

+ enhancing our ministry as a voice of a progressive Christianity and a progressive Presbyterian witness addressing the issues and concerns of our day: theological, political, social, economic.

+ expanding the utilization of the Carriage House in meeting community needs.

+ seeking funds through grants to maintain our historic church facility.

+ producing a Mission Study which will incorporate all of the above and prepare for the next chapter and next pastorate for Old South Haven Church.

I am enjoying the challenge this is offering to me and to you. I am deeply appreciative of the commitment and hard work so many of you are giving to this task. I am convinced that God will bless our future as God has so richly blessed our past and present. May we be faithful disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lenten Wednesday Night Series

We will be joining together with Yaphank, Center Moriches, East Moriches, Selden and Middle Island in offering a series of worship events on the Wednesday nights of Lent. Each of the events will be focused on the music of our faith tradition.

The series will begin on February 28, the week after Ash Wednesday. (We will hold our individual Ash Wednesday services).

February 28 -- A hymn Sing at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church in which we will have a chance to display our church organ to our sister congregations. Our hymns and special music will follow the life of Christ through his ministry, leading to the music of Holy Week, and our future hope.

March 7 at the Presbyterian Church of the Moriches, Center Moriches, a service build around "Evening Vespers" including music from their choir. (Rev. Gordon Letizia)

March 14 at First Presbyterian Church of East Moriches. A service designed by Elder Dennis Piermont of East Hampton including some hymns and music written by him and other contemporaries. (Rev. Anne McAnelly)

March 21 at Yaphank Presbyterian Church featuring instrumental music in which we will "make a joyful sound unto the Lord." (Rev. Ralph Wright)

March 28 (still pending) at the Middle Island Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Catherine Schuyler of Grace Presbyterian Church, Selden sharing her musical talent, and that of others.

After each of these Wednesday night services there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments.

This Lenten program is an experiment in cooperative planning between these several pastors and congregations. We trust it will be well supported in one's own church as well as attending the entire series.



Christian Education

By Darcy Stevens

If 70 degree January days give you pause, join our Winter adult study on "A Person of Faith and the Environment".

We will kick it off with a two part presentation by Sr. Margaret Galiardi, OP called "Earth, Spirit and You" on Jan 21st and 28th, both Sundays, from 3-5pm.

Margaret, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, is currently Associate Director of "Homecoming," an organization committed to the understanding that the human and the natural world are one sacred community. She lectures widely on an ecological theology and on other topics related to the retelling of the Christian Story in the context of the larger Universe Story.

Come and be inspired and energized!!! And spread the word to your friends. If you know of an organization or interested person whom we should contact by mail, call Darcy 286-9278.

Sunday School is a small but fun group. We will also study ecology and God's Earth in Jan/Feb. By March the kids will be ready for a change of pace.....a new teacher for the Spring classes will be appreciated by all. Any volunteers?



THE MINISTRIES: Alive If Not Well

By Alan Stevens

The Ministries has survived. As noted in an earlier Newsletter article, The Ministries, an interfaith charity born in the spirit of the ecumenical movement, and serving those in need in Suffolk County with a variety of needed services, was in severe financial trouble. An outpouring of donations following a Newsday article on December 22 was enough to pay off our debt and assure a balanced budget in 2007.

However, the organization was forced to make dramatic facility, personnel and program cuts to adapt to our current income and thus we cannot serve the poor in Suffolk County as effectively as we should. The Ministries philosophy has always been to serve those in need, to the limits of our abilities, in a holistic manner. Thus, it is often not enough to feed the hungry if family dysfunction is a part of the cause of that hunger. And conversely, family counseling can seem irrelevant when basic needs like adequate nourishment are unfulfilled.

In order to regain our effectiveness, the Board of Governors and staff of The Ministries have embarked on a program to restore our previous level of services. One part of that program is to re-connect to our historical base, people of faith acting together in mission to those in need. OSHC has been a part of the beginning of this "comeback". On behalf of the organization, I extend our gratitude for the almost \$500 that OSHC members donated in December. First Presbyterian in Port Jefferson (three times our size) donated \$1000. In the near future, we hope that OSHC, First and the Presbyterian churches in Smithtown and Setauket will be able to form an alliance and approach the Presbytery of Long Island for mission support. Again, our thanks to the members of OSHC.

MEMBER'S REFLECTION

By Peggy Angus

I came to Old South Haven Church in Dec. 2003 in answer to an ad for organist. What I found was a lovely old pipe organ just crying out for major overhaul. It was a nostalgic moment as it was very much like the organ I played as a teen-ager and I immediately had a vision. I wanted to help this congregation find the means to restore what was one of their most valuable assets. I began as organist Jan. 2004, did a lot of praying and planning for fund raisers.

Over the next few months, I grew to love this congregation. I loved the diversity of it's members, the spirit of fairness, honesty, and forthrightness, all qualities which promote trust among members. I knew that I was home and that I wanted to be a member of this church family.

On Jan. 9th, 2005, I was accepted formally as a new member. Are prayers really answered? I have to say, without question, "Yes". Our organ has received the much needed major repairs, through a totally unexpected bequest, and even enhanced visually by a congregant's Memorial Donation.

It has been a joy to worship with my church family and to serve as organist and choir director, giving glory to God in our music.



From the Music Department

By Peggy Angus



Happy New Year to All. I feel that it is going to be a wonderful year for Old South Haven Church. While we have not been without problems, I see us moving forward with a positive pace.

Organ repairs have been completed and we are planning our re-dedication concert about the end of March. Watch for the date to be announced and don't miss this momentous occasion.

We will be working on a series of organ recitals by guest organists, to continue after Easter and into the summer season. Our goal is to promote awareness of and interest in organ music in our community. Did you know that, with the exception of St. Andrews in Mastic Beach, we have the only pipe organ between Patchogue and Westhampton Beach?

Thanks to our choir members, who worked diligently on their Christmas music and did a great job. Also, we need to thank our guest soloist, Daryl Jordan for her two beautiful solos. I so enjoyed working on the traditional "Lessons and Carols" service Christmas Eve. Look for the announcement of a hymn-sing the end of February, joined by our neighboring churches. Let's make this a well-attended event with a view toward making it an annual one. Hymn-sings are such fun.

God Bless, and Good Health to All in the coming year.

DEACONS

By Kappy Tilney

As in past years, the Deacons' major Christmas outreach was stockings for the residents of the Brookhaven Town House for Adults. Previously, Old South Haven "stuffed to the gills" 50 pairs of socks. However, this year the staff requested that Old South Haven decrease the items in the socks and increase the number of socks. Complying with that request, 182 crew socks were purchased and stuffed with three items (package of cheese & crackers, chocolate "coins" and a pen). Should you have any thoughts on stocking stuffers for Christmas '07, please pass along your ideas.

On December 17, 2006 the stockings, with the enthusiastic help of Jaylyn and Jack, were stuffed and tied with ribbon. As some stuffed, others decorated the tree ... and all ate!! Pam Light and Ann Wiswall provided the soups and both were delicious. Thank you from all who enjoyed!

The Deacons provided seasonal flowers and gifts for several people. Cards (Thinking of You, Get Well and Christmas) were sent and calls and visits made.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Deacons' Fund. Your continuing generosity enables the Deacons to "look out...and lend a hand".

Please keep Jeffrey Glayzer in your prayers. Jeffrey continues to undergo treatment for leukemia. *Jeffrey Glayzer, 272 Whittier Drive, Mastic Beach, NY 11951.*

Leila Porter

Just as we were going to press, we received word of the death of Leila Porter on January 15, 2007. Leila was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Glen Cove, and had been worshipping with Old South Haven Church since her move to Brookhaven several years ago. A memorial service will be held in Glen Cove. Expressions of condolences may be sent to her daughter, Linda Torres, 32 Old Stump Rd., Brookhaven, NY 11719.

Calendar

Sunday, January 21 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Presentation: Part one:
"Earth, Spirit and You A Spirituality for the
21st Century"

Thursday, January 25 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 28 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Presentation: Part two:
"Earth, Spirit and You ... A Spirituality for the
21st Century"

Sunday, February 04 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship/Communion (Communion
Preparation: Elder Deitz)

Sunday, February 11 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Sunday, February 18 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Wed. February 21 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Ash
Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 25 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Sunday, February 25 Following Worship:
Annual Meeting. A lunch will be served.

Wed., February 28 7:30 PM Hymn sing at
OSHC in which we will have a chance to
display our church organ to our sister

congregations. This is the first of a series of
joint Lenten Worship Events shared with
Yaphank, Center Moriches, East Moriches,
Selden & Middle Island

Sunday, March 04 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship/Communion (Communion
Preparation: Elder Majowka)

Wed., March 07 7:30 PM Presbyterian
Church of the Moriches, Center Moriches.
Rev. Gordon Letizia. A service built around
"Evening Vespers" including music from their
choir.

Sunday, March 11 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Wed., March 14 7:30 PM First Presbyterian
Church of East Moriches. Rev. Anne
McAnelly. A service designed by Elder Dennis
Piermont of East Hampton, including hymns
and music written by him and other
Contemporaries.

Sunday, March 18 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

**Wed., March 21 7:30 PM Yaphank
Presbyterian Church.** Rev. Ralph Wright

Featuring instrumental music in which we will
"make a joyful sound unto the Lord".

Sunday, March 25 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Wed., March 28 Lenten Service is pending.



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Please Join Us

Earth, Spirit & You



CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

IS HUMAN "DOMINION" RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS?

CAN WE RESTORE GOD'S CREATION?

WHAT ARE OUR OBLIGATIONS
IN CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION?

*A two-session presentation
by Margaret Galiardi, O.P.*

Sunday, Jan 21, 2007 3-5 pm
and
Sunday, Jan 28, 2007 3-5 pm

**Old South Haven Presbyterian Church
Beaver Dam & South Country Roads
Brookhaven, NY**

Sister Margaret Galiardi is a member of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, and is the Associate Director of Homecoming, an organization committed to the understanding that the human and the natural world are one sacred community. She lectures nationally on the emerging ecological theology.

Old South Haven Church is pleased to offer these two sessions as we launch our Winter Study on The Person of Faith & the Environment