

Pastor's Corner

A Spring Task



It was a two day job spread over a two week period. Its results were shown each week in 20 to 25 30 gallon large trash bags packed solid with leaves, mowed grass and broken twigs or cut up fallen branches, ready to be picked up by the Town. (And the project is not completed yet.) For many people, particularly those who like their lawns and gardens to look nice, it is a yearly Spring Project. In my case it has been a slightly bigger project than normal because it was not done last Spring.

It has involved raking (being very careful as this was done in flower beds), clipping off dead limbs from trees, pruning shrubbery, trimming around benches and markers.

In the process our eyes were opened to seeing living plants and flowers in bloom not noticed before because they were smothered by accumulated leaves and other debris. Danny, my 'hired hand' in this project would sometimes exclaim in seemingly unbelief: "look there are beautiful flowers there," and the discovery led him to very carefully clean around it and uncover them.

What has been taking place outdoors has its counterpart indoors: cleaning out file drawers that have become so loaded that one can no longer know what is there.

Much that is in those file drawers no longer has any value to me and their accumulation has kept me from finding in those file drawers the things I wish to find ("because I know it is in here somewhere!!")

Two weeks ago there was a house fire in the Five Towns section of Nassau County. The owner of the house lost his life in the fire. Fire personnel at the scene set their work was made more difficult because the fire was fueled by all the accumulated "trash" in the house: daily newspapers and magazines and old mailings. Said a neighbor: "He was a wonderful gentleman, a good neighbor, but he had one big fault: he never threw anything away." He never engaged in Spring housecleaning.

Let the stories of my yard

clearing, file clearing, and the plight of the gentleman from the Five Towns serve to introduce the reader of this column to another Spring project (though it really can take place at any time when it is appropriate). It has to do with our spiritual lives. I could call it 'spiritual pruning' or "discarding to make room to receive," or "what is in fact smothering new life to spring forth." I am referring to the fact that sometimes (or maybe even most of the time) dead beliefs (that we still cling to even though they serve to smother and keep us from 'springing forth' that which is vital and alive), or dead rituals and practices that do absolutely nothing to exhibit the beauty of the living, have us clinging to what serves us no longer.

If only we would take the time and be committed to pruning, and clearing, and allowing the blossoming of the new in our individual lives and in our life together as a Congregation.

Tom Philipp

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 27 - Pentecost/Pluralism Sunday

7 pm showing of the video "Faith on Long Island"

Monday, May 28, Memorial Day

11:00 am Bellport Parade

Saturday, June 2 - Yard Sale

Sunday, June 3 - More Light Sunday Communion

Tuesday, June 5 - Presbytery meets at East Hampton

Sunday, June 10 The Recorder Group plays at morning worship

1:00 **Church and Church School Picnic** at South Haven Park

Tuesday, June 12 - 7:00pm "People of Faith and the Environment"

Follow-up "Where do WE go from here?"

Sunday, June 17 - Fathers' Day

Sunday, June 24 - Alan Stevens , preacher

Wednesday June 27 to July 1 - Pastor Tom attending National Campus Ministers Association meeting in Nashville, Tenn.



BOARD OF DEACONS

The potluck supper on March 25, was as usual, abundantly supplied with food. Many thanks for all the delicious contributions. The Deacons plan to have several suppers throughout the year. If you have any thoughts on a theme, please let Pastor Tom know.

During March and April cards were sent (thinking of you, get well and Easter cards) and visits were made to those unable to worship with us. A request for assistance from a member of the community was received and a food gift card was provided.

“Notes of Welcome” have been sent to visitors who have signed the Visitors Book in the narthex. Please encourage visitors to provide their name and address so that this practice may continue.

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.

Kappy Tilney



A Message from Jason

A few days ago, as I was leaving the gym, I encountered Captain Prausa. He was the HHC commander for 2-30 IN (Task Force Boar), our fellow 4th Brigade 10th Mountain Division Soldiers who replaced us in Afghanistan in November. His task force returned in March, and he told me how wonderful it was that so many good folks who knew me (directly or indirectly) had continued to send care packages to Afghanistan after I left. I know that at least two churches and several individuals sent boxes of supplies and goodies, and I just wanted to let you know that those care packages have boosted the morale of many Soldiers so far from home.

For those of you who read the *Army Times*, or watch the news, you know that it has been published that my unit is set to deploy to Iraq in November. If all goes according to plan, we will be there for fifteen months. Until then, I will try to catch up with as many people as I can. If I don't see you, feel free to call or e mail me anytime. And once again, thank you for your support. Peace and blessings.

Jason Neal



Biblical Guidance – Which bugs are legal to eat?

“All winged insects that walk upon all fours are detestable to you. But among the winged insects that walk on all fours, you may eat those that have jointed legs above the feet” (Leviticus 11:20-21). Something we're sure you've often pondered on.



“FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM”

On Sunday May 6, we “celebrated the enduring witness of Christianity in the Middle East with various

members of the Congregation offering prayers for the Church in Lebanon, Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Jordan. Immediately after the service Pastor Tom, left for a two day Conference in Washington DC sponsored by Churches For Middle East Peace. The title of the gathering was “For the Peace of Jerusalem.” In addition to hearing speakers and participating in workshops, participants had the opportunity to visit their Senators and Representatives to advocate for a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (which is Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's new Middle East peace initiative) and to support the US policy that the status of Jerusalem be determined through negotiations, reject actions that would preempt a negotiated agreement, and support religious freedom in the holy city.

Pastor Tom has had a long interest in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and was a member of a Presbyterian Peacemaking Program team that spent time in the area several years ago, engaged in conversations with religious leaders there, political leaders, as well as journalists, peace advocates, Israeli soldiers, and a Palestinian and Israeli mothers group. He believes strongly that a negotiated settlement can be reached there if the United States and our allies would take a more aggressive stand.



Prayer List

Joan Moran, mother of Sean Moran, our Clerk of Session, who is terminally ill and at her home in Bellport under Hospice Care.



Passing of Jeffrey Glayzer

We extend our condolences to Michael Loftus, Jeffrey Glayzer's partner of 32 years, and Jeffrey's family upon Jeffrey's death on May 9. A Memorial Service was held at Old South Haven on Saturday, May 19. Jeffrey and Michael joined Old South Haven Church, together with Jeffrey's mother Edna, on December 3, 1989. He was ordained a Deacon on February 5, 1995.

Jeff leaves two brothers, Roger and Peter, a sister Pamela, and several nephews and nieces.

MORE LIGHT SUNDAY, June 3

More Light Sunday is a time for local Presbyterian churches to recognize, affirm and celebrate the presence, gifts, and ministries of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

The theme this year is "Liberating Love" How does love liberate us? What is liberating about God's love for us, and for all the world? What is liberating about being in love? What is liberating about our love for each other as part of the Body of Christ and the realm of God on earth? What actions are required of us to liberate Love in our lives, churches, communities, nation and world? These questions and concerns will shape Pastor Tom's message of the morning.

Sunday School Picnic - June 10th

We hope everyone will join us at the Sunday School Picnic, a send-off gala in honor of summer vacation! It will be on June 10 - Sunday - at 1:00 at South Haven Park. We can enjoy train rides on "Steamers" and good food, shared (Pot Luck Picnic!) and a beautiful day, we hope. Darcy and Janet will be providing details and coordination. Stay tuned.

People of Faith and the Environment - June 12th

Winter became Spring (how nice) but our "Winter Study" on People of Faith and the Environment is still unfinished. Where will we go from here? Lets discuss that on Tues, June 12 at 7:00 in the Gallery.

From the Financial Secretary

We are now well into the year. As was discussed at the Annual Meeting, the Session has adopted a deficit budget for the year -- a risk taking act of faith. We as a congregation recognized that we will remain a viable force in the community only if we continue to preach the gospel, fund our mission programs and maintain our physical facilities. But we can only maintain the deficit spending for a couple of years.

The good news is that unrestricted giving for the first four months of the year is slightly ahead of the budget estimates. Our members and friends are maintaining their pledges and even exceeding them. There are, however, major expenditures ahead of us, including the painting of the church this summer, and the possibility of further improvements to the Post Carriage House to make the basement area useable to an interested community service group. During the Summer months there often is a decline in giving; we ask that especially during this time you maintain your contributions.

We thank the Lyons Fuel Oil Co. for gifting two service contracts for our heating plants.

John Deitz

PENTECOST/PLURALISM SUNDAY May 27th

This Sunday, May 27, is Pentecost Sunday. Christians mark this day to observe "the coming of the Holy Spirit" into the life of those followers of Jesus, after the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and then Ascension of our Lord. The story as told in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles speaks of those gathered, who though they came from many different places and spoke different languages, all heard the message come to them in their own language. Furthermore, though they spoke different languages, they could understand one another.

Today, given the rich diversity of cultures and faith traditions, are we able to understand one another? This year The Center For Progressive Christianity, of which Pastor Tom is a member, is suggesting a new way to celebrate Pentecost. Progressive Christians around the world will be celebrating Pluralism. We will explore and experience other religious traditions in our worship services, even as we celebrate what is distinctive about our own.

There is a way to be Christian without claiming superiority over others. Rather it is an opportunity to learn from one another, and, hopefully, appreciate differences as well as commonalities. In the morning worship service we will incorporate a couple of sacred writings from other faiths and reflect on some of our differences.

PENTECOST/PLURALISM EVENING PROGRAM: 7:00 pm

This Sunday evening, May 27, we will continue the theme of the day with the showing of the video produced by the Multi-Faith Forum and the Long Island Council of Churches called "Faiths on Long Island" The video is 30 minutes long .

Cookies, cake, coffee and beverages will be served .The film will introduce us to Baha'i, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Native American Spirituality, Sikhism, Unitarian. Universalism, as these faith groups meeting and worship here on Long Island.





MUSIC DEPARTMENT

“Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night” USPS? No! This is our dedicated choir members, attending rehearsals faithfully no matter how bad the weather is. They worked especially hard on the organ dedication anthem with assistance from Tom White, tenor and Carol Lindsay and Lydia Cottiers, sopranos. I joined Ann in the alto section.

Paul Richter's concert performance was very well received. How appropriate that he be the one to perform as he had been a friend of Roger Kickerer. Roger was a member of OSH who left the endowment to make the restoration possible. And now Roger has been laid to rest, as his ashes were buried in the memorial garden before church service.

All our guests were impressed by the added beauty of the redesigned organ façade. Thanks to John Deitz who donated the additional funds for this enhancement.

The reception in the Carriage House was a success! Everyone enjoyed delicious food, fellowship and the photo display of the organ project. We gathered around Richard Hamar, representative from Ordell Organbuilders, with many questions. A great big THANKS to all who contributed.

The organ dedication service was an emotional journey for me. It was a blessing to be part of this process and show my love for the congregation.

My heart is full,
Peg



A Note From Robert Farrell

Robert Farrell, a friend of the late Roger Kickerer and Paul Richter sent Pastor Tom the following note after the Rededication Service and Concert:

“Thanks for such a wonderful day on Sunday., You have a fine congregation and made us feel so welcome.

The concert was great and the small ceremony for the (burial) of the ashes (in the Memorial Garden) was just perfect. I meant what I said: “Roger did come home.”

Old South Haven Church Organ rededicated with a concert by Paul J. Richter

On Sunday, April 22, 2007, the Hinners Organ was rededicated featuring a concert by Paul J. Richter.

Paul started his professional organist career with a student position at the Old South Haven Church in 1963. Now retired, he has had positions in many churches, most recently in Portland Organ.

A bequest by former member Roger Kickerer enabled the organ's renovation.



**Spring Yard Sale - Saturday, June 2
9 am - 3 pm**

Workers please be at Church by 8 am to help with set-up



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church
 Corner South Country & Beaverdam Rds.
 Brookhaven, NY
OldSouthHavenChurch.org
 (631) 286-0542
info@OldSouthHavenChurch.org
 Linda Scott, editor (631-286-2003)

PO Box 203
Brookhaven, NY 11719