

Pastor's Corner

Those Discards



Pastor Tom Philipp

Once again we had our Spring Yard Sale. It was a true success. Financially we took in around \$1,700: more than any of the previous Yard Sales since I have been here. More than that, it was a great day for fellowship. Our people seemed to be enjoying themselves (the aching muscles came later!!)

I've been wondering if having Yard Sales is a practice limited to these United States. I stand ready to be corrected if I am wrong. The practice of putting things on the curb only to have them picked up by someone driving by later, I bet is also an American phenomenon. When we finished our Yard Sale we put several items by the road way. Sure enough, half of it was gone by the next morning!

There is a type of fascination in looking at someone's discarded piece and seeing it as of value to you. I have put at the curb broken pieces of furniture and various kinds of broken and therefore useless machines, and then discovering that some "elf" took them in the middle of the night.

For me personally the fascination is limited to books. A fair number of the books in my library are someone else's discards. I suppose some of these former owners thought me nuts for so quickly wanting to claim for my own what they considered to be of no use. But they are of value to me, so I assume, or I would not lay claim to them. Many of them I now treasure. At an earlier period in my life I was fascinated by any kind of electrical gadget. I remember once picking out of someone's junk pile a non-working electric hair dryer. I was about 10 or 11 at the time. My father helped me to get it working again and members of the family used it for a good five years or more. The first two cars I owned, bought at ridiculously low prices, were cars discarded by their original owners when they wanted to move on to something newer and better. Those cars served me quite well until I also found reason to discard them for something else. Sometimes discards are of surprising value to someone else.



Member's Reflections

"Heartfelt Thanks"

Peggy Angus

"I thank my God always because of the contribution you have made. For I am confident that He who started a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Jesus Christ". (Philippians 1:3,5,6) These words of Paul and Timothy to the congregation at Philippi reflect my feelings toward all of you at Old South Haven, who have stepped in to help me in my time of need.

When I found it necessary to discontinue driving because of poor eyesight, I was disturbed at the thought of having to leave the church I had grown to love. I feel that I receive so much from attending every Sunday.



I am happy to say, I have not missed a single Sunday for lack of transportation. To all those who have seen to it that I get to and from church every Sunday, I am deeply grateful. It has also allowed me to be an active part of the music ministry, singing in the choir. What a joy it is to be able to continue on at OSH. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

What have I learned on becoming a Presbyterian? That Presbyterians are a loving, caring, dependable and giving group of people. I pray that God's spirit will help us to continue to grow in spirituality and quality of worship.

Blessing to you all,
Peggy



Would you believe that Jesus was described as a valuable discard. In the Gospel of Luke (20:17) He is seen as "the stone that the builders rejected" but who became the cornerstone. Yes, in the discarded there just might be found the valuable, the gem, the treasure, the pearl of great price. Perhaps it is wise to not drive by too quickly, ignore or reject without first examining and checking out life's discards, and history's Discarded or Rejected One.

Thank God for all the ministries performed that search for, reach out to, and claim as precious and of value those discarded by others, discards who no longer seem of value. Because the Discarded and Rejected One did reach out, those who profess His name also continue to reach out.

Welcome New Members



We welcome as New Members:

Jennifer Burgess, 30 Hamilton Street, Patchogue 11772. Tel. 289-3069

Lorraine Gallo, 151 Woodland Drive, East Islip 11730 Tel 581-0416.

Lorraine is Jennifer's Mother.

On Father's Day, June 21 Brian Christopher Burgess Jr., son of Jennifer and Brian Burgess, will be baptized in our sanctuary. Brian Jr. was born on January 7, 2009



Board of Deacons

Kappy Tilney, President



On Saturday evening, May 2, the Deacons met at the manse. Tom's kind invitation produced fruitful discussion on several topics and was followed by delicious desserts.

Tom's concept of a "telephone tree" was discussed. Each Deacon was assigned several church households. Your Deacon will "keep in touch" periodically to say hello and see if your church family can be of help in any way.

Over the years, the Deacons have received requests for assistance from local families or individuals. The Deacons hope to establish some guidelines on how we can realistically address these requests. If we cannot answer the need, we hope to provide pertinent information of agencies and people that can.

Finally, we discussed church family special occasions (eg. birthdays) and are hopeful that the coupon below will be filled out and left in the offering plate or mailed to Old South Haven (Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 203, Brookhaven, NY 11719).

The Board of Deacons: Katherine Frankie (878 - 2834); Cathy Kellogg (286-8892); Bill Scott (286-2003); Lyn Scott (286-2003); Kappy Tilney (286-0024); and Steve Welgoss (917-572-6667).

SPECIAL OCCASIONS	
NAMES	
BIRTHDAY	
OTHER	
CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS	

Have You Visited the Church's Website Recently? <http://OldSouthHavenChurch.org>. We have a new events calendar on the home page. **Betty Gardner** has agreed to maintain the calendar. Please be sure to notify her of changes and additions. (631) 286-1396. gardner7@optonline.net.

The Center for Progressive Christianity: The Eight Points

In his sermon on Pluralism Sunday (May 3) Pastor Tom introduced The Eight Points which serves as a belief and mission statement of The Center for Progressive Christianity. The Session was presented with the Eight Points at its last meeting for their study leading to the possibility of Old South Haven becoming an affiliate of the Center.

The Eight Points are as follows:

1. We have found an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus. That is why we are Christians.

2. We recognize the faithfulness of other people who have other names for the way to God's realm and acknowledge that their ways are true for them, as our ways are true for us. In fact we feel we can learn something from them.

3. We understand the sharing of bread and wine in Jesus' name to be a representation of an ancient vision of God's feast for all peoples.

4. We invite all people to participate in our community and worship life without insisting that they become like us in order to be acceptable (including but not limited to): believers and agnostics, conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, women and men, those of all sexual orientations and gender identities; those of all races and cultures; those of all classes and abilities; those who hope for a better world and those who have lost hope; without imposing on them the necessity of becoming like us.

5. We know that the way we behave toward one another and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe.

6. We find more grace in the search for understanding than we do in dogmatic certainty, more value in questioning than in absolutes.

7. We feel called to communities of faith that are dedicated to equipping one another for the work we are called to do: striving for peace and justice among all people, protecting and restoring the integrity of all of God's creation, and bringing hope to those Jesus called the least of his sisters and brothers.

8. We recognize that being followers of Jesus is costly, and entails selfless love, conscientious resistance to evil, and renunciation of privilege.

Visit the Center's web page at

<http://www.tpc.org/template/index.cfm>



News from the Long Island Council of Churches

The Council reports that it is feeding 53% more families this year than last year and last year was a record increase in numbers served. At the same time financial donations to the Council from individuals, churches, foundations, businesses and government have dropped considerably.

At its May Annual Meeting Alan Stevens was elected to the Council's Development Committee and Pastor Tom was elected to the Personnel Committee

More Light Sunday June 7

Once again we celebrate More Light Sunday on the first Sunday of June, joining other More Light Presbyterian congregations across the United States. It is "a time to recognize and celebrate the presence and gifts of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and their families in our local congregations." This year it has particular significance for Presbyterians, for New Yorkers, and for Old South Haven.



On May 30, the presbyteries completed their voting on what is known as Amendment 08-B which would remove the "fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness" clause for ordained officers (clergy, elders and deacons) which was added to The Book of Order (our denomination's constitution) a few years ago. Removing this wording would also place the authority for ordaining clergy by presbyteries and elders and deacons by congregations without this restriction. The Presbytery of Long Island voted overwhelmingly in favor of removing the restriction. There are 173 presbyteries. A majority to pass or fail is 87. As of this writing (May 28), 171 had voted with "yes" votes at 78 and "no" votes at 93. This is a disappointment BUT 34 presbyteries which had voted negative on a similar amendment in 2002 "flipped" and voted in favor (one presbytery "flipped" the other way!). It was not enough to change the present policy.

That day WILL come... if we, within the More Light movement, and others continue our work.

Pastor Tom



Lobbying in Albany

On Tuesday, April 28 Pastor Tom and Pastor Erik Rasmussen (Bellport Methodist) joined with other clergy and religious leaders to lobby our local State legislators to support legislation in three areas: 1) Dignity For All Students Act (A.3661/S.1987). This bill prohibits harassment against students in school including the areas of sexual orientation and gender identity; 2) Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) (A 5710/S.2406) which adds gender identity and expression to human rights law in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit; and 3) Marriage for Same Sex Couples. Beside the 1,138 rights and responsibilities that are bestowed on married couples from the federal government, there are another 1,324 rights and responsibilities that come from New York State government with marriage.

In our lobbying we found Pat Eddington supportive of all three pieces of legislation. Brian Foley has announced support for the first two but indicates he has not made up his mind yet on same sex marriage (though he may be leaning toward support!).



Habitat For Humanity

On Saturday, May 30, Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk dedicated its 130th affordable home. This home in Bay Shore was built for a hard working single mom. The organization is celebrating 20 years "of building homes and hopes."

Charges Brought Against Rev. Jean Southard

Boston Presbytery has brought charges against Rev. Jean Southard for officiating at a legal same-gender wedding last year. (Same sex marriage is legal in Mass). Jean is the former Jean Deitz, a member of Old South Haven Presbyterian Church from 1968 to 1981, during which time she was an active peace and advocate for human rights. She became an ordained Presbyterian minister twenty years ago and has served two congregations with strong ministries addressing the areas of homelessness, hunger, health care, addictions, and GLBT (gay/lesbian bisexual/transgender) individuals. The charge involves her officiating at a wedding ceremony for two lesbian members of her congregation.



Jean is in our prayers. Her email address is JKSouthard@aol.com.



Pastor Tom Speaks at William Floyd High School

Pastor Tom recently was asked to speak to the Gay/Lesbian/Transgender Student Group at William Floyd High School. He found it to be a most rewarding experience in speaking to a group of around 50 students. In addition to fielding their questions about "what does the Bible say" and "what does the Church say" he emphasized that "each of you is a unique individual and it is an ongoing journey to discover who you are, but don't let others define that for you, not even this group." He spoke of Old South Haven being a More Light Church (explaining what that meant) and our Church received applause!

After the presentation to the group Pastor Tom spent another hour at the school in individual conversations. "As I left the meeting room and made my way down the hallways and out to the parking lot, various students ran up to me to say 'Thank you, Pastor Tom'".



Church of Scotland Approves The Rev. Scott Rennie.



It is not only the Presbyterian Church in the United States (together with other US denominations) which is dealing with the question of approving appointments of gay/lesbian clergy. The Church of Scotland, after lengthy debate, recently approved the Rev. Scott Rennie to Queen's Cross Church in Aberdeenshire. Scott is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Pastor Tom, who is on the Executive Committee of the Alumni/ae Council of the Seminary, sent words of support by email to Scott while the Church of Scotland was deliberating.



Join US...

...in this wonderful Outreach Ministry!
Help begin planning for ...

"where fearless kids shine God's light!"



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▶ **ORGANIZERS**
▶ **HELPERS**
▶ **ARTISTS**

Call Sara (286-1712) or email her at saramorse51@gmail.com

Operated by the Bellport Methodist Church, in cooperation with Mary Immaculate R.C., Southaven Presbyterian, and Christ Episcopal Churches.




Sunday School/All Church Picnic - June 14

Please join us at the Sunday School / All Church Picnic. Everyone will gather at the Stevens abode in Bellport on June 14 after church. It will be a Pot Luck picnic - we'll provide burgers (veggie and beef) and dogs. Please bring a salad, beverage or dessert to share. Come prepared to help the kids with their scavenger hunt, play some games or just enjoy one another's company!

In the planning stages for next year is a Sunday morning class for little ones and a monthly teen gathering on Sunday evening. If you have thoughts or suggestions for the planning stage or would like to be a leader or helper during the year (or part of it) please talk with Darcy.

Morning Worship Assignments

Monday, June 8, 7 p.m.


Film: Race or Reason: The Bellport Dilemma

Date	Greeter	Lay Leader	Coffee Hour
7-Jun	K. Tilney	S. Welgoss	C. Kellogg
14-Jun	K. Barry	J. Barry	N. Best
21-Jun	Jaylyn/Jack	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
28-Jun	J/E Morgan	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
5-Jul	W. Scott	L. Scott	H. Altomare
12-Jul	S. Moran	D. Mayo	A. Wiswall
19-Jul	K. Tilney	S. Welgoss	J. Neal
26-Jul	J/E Morgan	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
2-Aug	W. Scott	N. Best	S. McKay
9-Aug	K. Barry	J. Barry	P. Light
16-Aug	K. Tilney	F. Decker	G. Laface
23-Aug	H. Altomare	B. Mullahy	N. Best
6-Sep	W. Scott	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
13-Sep	S. Moran	S. McKay	H. Altomare
20-Sep	Sunday School	J. Neal	C. Kellogg
27-Sep	J/E Morgan	D. Jones	L. Scott
4-Oct	W. Scott	D. Mayo	P. Light
11-Oct	K. Barry	J. Barry	J. Neal
18-Oct	Sunday School	N. Best	A. Wiswall
25-Oct	J/E Morgan	K. Tilney	K. Tilney

In 1970, there was an outbreak of hostilities between African-American and white students at the Bellport High School that forced school officials to call police and close the school for over a week. Local community leader Betty Puleston was one of many who opened her home to help in meditation and facilitated dialogue through the production of video tapes by the students.

These tapes have been recently revisited, and Betty and Lynne Jackson have produced a film which includes modern insights some thirty years later by many of the then participants. The film was recently screened at the Museum of Modern Art. Some of the original participants are expected to be at this showing. Betty died April 28th at age 91.

[John Deitz comments: Members of Old South Haven Presbyterian Church were much involved in this very stressful time for the community. The Carriage House was frequently used as a neutral meeting place between community members, mediators, school officials, and students. While my memories are fuzzy concerning many of the details of these events, this film presents a student perspective somewhat different from what I remember as a "young" minor participant. It is well worth viewing. There are important lessons for us today.]



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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