

Pastor's Corner

Autumn Glow

Pastor Tom Philipp



It is my favorite season. It is the time of the year when I really enjoy my travels on the parkways of Long Island and my recent drive up to Boston. The roadways are bedecked in rich hues of red, orange, gold, and brown. These colors offer a warmth that brings peace and serenity to the soul. Long Island is a wonderful place to be in Autumn.

Autumn is Nature's last fling before winter! The botanists tell us that the leaves change their color with the increasing length of night (even as in Spring buds appear and foliage appear with the increase of light) The botanists tell us that light/darkness plays a more important role in the life cycle than does temperature, rainfall or food supply. We know that leaves are green in Spring and Summer because of the production of chlorophyll. In Autumn, chlorophyll production decreases and then stops. We also know that finally the veins close off and leaves fall.

As I look at the colors of Autumn, I cannot help but reflect on our own life cycle. The largest percentage of our church membership is persons in their Autumn years. I find in them (in us, Tom!) an 'Autumn glow'.

For most, the days of working hard to make a living are over, priorities have shifted, new concerns replace old concerns, and life has moved from the 'rat race' to an appreciation of lasting friendships, reading, and enjoying simpler things, and certainly enjoying life itself as it moves toward its ending. All of this makes for what I would call an 'Autumn glow' which radiates from them and gives beauty to others. Yes, the day comes when these leaves fall from the branch but the 'Autumn glow' remains.

The other day a friend from the community made the comment to me, "Your congregation is made up of older people, is it not?" In the past I would have quickly responded that we are not just older people, we have younger folk as well! But this time, and maybe it was because I was caught up in the beauty of an Autumn day, I responded quite differently. Said I, "Yes we have several members in their seventies and eighties, and one over ninety, and they offer something that is priceless." I then went on to tell him about the beauty of Autumn and how my life personally and the life of our Congregation benefits from their 'Autumn glow.'

Thank you, good people in your 'later years' for the warmth of your colors. Thank you for your 'Autumn glow.'

Member's Reflections

Journey

Sean Moran



My journey at Old South Haven started in 1996 with the baptism of Christopher Michael Maler, Jr. in June of that year. I had known of Old South Haven for quite some time.

Samantha Lyons Herlein and I have been friends since we were 2 or 3 years old. To this day, she is one of my best friends. Her grandmother was Jan Lyons. To me, she was known as Yoo Hoo. Yoo Hoo was a very active member of OSH. She would tell me of the activities she was involved in from time to time. I remember on many occasions, before joining OSH, passing by on South Country Road and wondering about the little white church on the hill. I had known of its big heart through the participation of many members in community programs, such as the SWAP (Summer Work Assistance Program) that was run in the mid-eighties by Bhep and St. Vincent de Paul. It was my friendship with Joop van der Grinten that guided me into the bright sanctuary of OSH. He spoke very highly of the pastor and the congregation.

When did I take the first step into the journey itself? Well, it was a Sunday in September or October in 1996. I had been an intern in the

Passages Counseling Center in Moriches. I was working on becoming Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor. One of the issues that counselors would try to work on with a patient was their spirituality. How that helps greatly in recovery.

I had drifted for some time from the Catholic Church. I did not, and still do not, agree with their teachings on birth control, homosexuality and a whole host of issues. I just could not come to grips with being in an institution that was a hierarchy. So on one Sunday, I put on my Sunday clothes, hopped into my Buick Century and attended my first service at OSH. I was greeted with such warmth from the people and the setting. I have always liked the interior design of OSH. Simple, clean, bright. The way I think Jesus would have it. I had no idea at the time that my journey would amount to serving briefly as a Deacon and then on to Session and currently serving as your Clerk of Session.

It has been a great journey with OSH. There have been many joys over the years, the restoration on the Carriage House, the restoration of the Organ, having great Pastors in Tom and Jeanne. We were blessed to find another great Pastor shortly after a great Pastor retired. The sense of community and family that was greatly outreached to me on the loss of my brother Billy and my mother Joan. The feeling of family. This is what helps me on my spiritual journey which is ever going.



Beaverdam Creek, Brookhaven Hamlet, NY



Board of Deacons

Kappy Tilney

As the need arises, Get Well and Thinking of You cards are sent to members and friends of Old South Haven. "Welcoming Notes" continue to be sent to visitors.

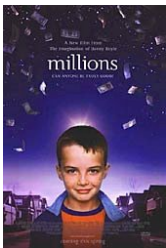
After worship, on October 28, 2007, we joined together for a potluck luncheon. It enabled the congregation to visit with Jason Neal prior to his deployment in Iraq. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with a dear friend.

Many thanks for all the delicious food Helen Altomare and Pam Light for the home made soups, Linda Majowka for the cider, cheeps and breads and Joann Neal for the two cakes.

Food Basket

This is an opportune time to remind the congregation of Old South Haven's continuing food donations to St Joseph the Worker. The food pantry volunteers are always appreciative of anything Old South Haven can donate. Last month 30 food items were given.

In the spirit of Advent, could that number be increased?



December Film

Millions

Our monthly film series continues on December 16 at 7 pm with the 2005 British movie *Millions*. The film will be preceded by the annual tree decoration and stuffing of stockings, and a soup and sandwich supper.

Damian the young hero of *Millions* gets advice from a steady stream of long-dead Catholic Saints. One afternoon, as he sits in his cardboard clubhouse, chatting with a particularly obscure saint, a satchel stuffed with money literally falls from the sky into his lap – later found to be stolen used cash on its way to be destroyed. Damian is convinced that the money is a sign from God and wants to give it to the poor. Anthony, ever the realist brother, wants to invest part of it on real estate, but also uses some of the money to pay an entourage of schoolmates to pedal him to school on a bike, carry his books and hold doors for him.

Without ever getting too heavy, or preachy, *Millions* grapples with several weighty issues, all through the earnest eyes of angelic Damian. Should they return the money? Is it right to give stolen money to charity? How do you decide who needs the money most? And why is it so hard to do what you think is right, when so many around you would do things differently?

Most importantly, *Millions* is about the nature of Christian charity—the call to feed the hungry, heal the sick, care for the helpless and sacrifice some of what you have, for those who have less. It's a very simple, almost first-century-style, Christian philosophy that sometimes seems neglected today. As Damian sees the greed and materialism that surrounds him, he is discouraged. But as one saint assures him, "There's still enough good around to keep going on." The identity of this wise and "new" saint is one of the most satisfying surprises in the film.

The film takes place during the Advent season in suburban Manchester, England, amid the hurly-burly of pre-Christmas preparations.

Excerpted from a review that may be found at the United Methodist Church site:
<http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?mid=6996>



Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is December 2. Once again during the Advent period

we will light a candle on the Advent Wreath in the sanctuary on each of the four Sundays of Advent, and then light the Christ Candle at our candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Special worship bulletins will help us to carry out the theme of Advent throughout the period, as we prepare ourselves for the Celebration of Christmas. On Sunday afternoon, December 16, we will erect and decorate the Christmas tree and have a time of fellowship. At 7 pm we will view the film "Millions."

The choir is working on anthems for each of the four Sundays, as well as, several numbers for the Christmas Eve Service which will be a traditional service of lessons and carols. Daryl Jordan, soprano soloist, will once again be with us.

Ceramic mugs are gaining popularity at coffee hour. Bring yours in if you have not done so. We have collected enough silver and main course plates for upcoming pot luck dinners. And look for (and use) a paper recycling basket under the table in the gallery.

If you have ideas on making us more environmentally friendly, speak or act!



Darcy Stevens

In Sunday School we have been studying the parables of Jesus (a different one each month) and experiencing each through art, music, drama or games. The idea is to spend enough time with each parable to really know the story and think about its meaning.

We will take a break from the parables during Advent and resume the theme in January. If you have a favorite parable or a special talent that you would share with Sunday School we would love you to join us for a week or possibly a few weeks. We are a small but enthusiastic group!

FELLOWSHIP



Ann Wiswall

The **Monday Lunch Group** is now meeting at 12:30 PM on the first Monday of the month. We meet at the Church Gallery unless otherwise announced. Bring your lunch (tea and coffee are provided). Please come and join us for conversation and fellowship with other members of our church family. All are welcome.

In the near future, Tom Philipp's niece and her son will take part in a Sunday Morning Worship Service. They will share their work with the **Heifer Project**. A brunch will follow this service so we can meet and talk with our guests. The date for this event will be announced.



2008 Stewardship Campaign Report Loaves and Fishes

This year's Stewardship Campaign used as its theme the story of the feeding of the 5000 with five loaves and two fishes found in Mark 6: 35-44.

While the results are still preliminary, the members and friends of Old South Haven Presbyterian Church have again shown their commitment, dedication and sacrifice. As of this writing, we have exceeded last year's pledges, and can look forward toward meeting next year's considerable financial challenges.

Reflections On The Sabeel Conference

Pastor Tom

On Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27, I attended a conference at Old South Church in Boston, of Friends of Sabeel-North America, of which I am a member. Sabeel (Arabic for the Way) is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians who seek a just peace based on two states- Palestine and Israel as defined by international law. The conference was titled "The Apartheid Paradigm in Palestine-Israel. 900 attended from 30 U.S. States and five countries. The Conference drew far more than expected with some people needing to be turned away. Desmond Tutu was the keynote speaker. The event drew opposition from pro-occupation and pro-Zionist groups in the wider Boston area, but was supported by Jewish Voice for Peace.

I have posted in the Gallery a copy of Tutu's address. He spoke out against the violence exhibited today by both Palestinians and Israelis and called Israel to exhibit the values that are part of her heritage: "Thanks be to God for the many, many Jews who know what their divine calling is and who want the Israeli Government to live it out. We believe in a two state solution of two sovereign, viable states each with contiguous borders guaranteed as secure by the international community. We condemn acts of terrorism by whoever they are committed."

Here on Long Island I participate in a Middle East study group with three Presbyterian pastors and two Elders. I am convinced that until a fair and just arrangement in Israel-Palestine is achieved with US and UN strong support, the US will continue to find Arab resentment and acts of violence throughout the Middle East.

Conflict In Darfu

Posted on our bulletin board is an educational piece titled "Sudan: At War With Its People" which provides a historical context for the present conflict in Darfur, as well as a summary of the work of The Sudan Advocacy Action Forum (SAAF) – a Christian grassroots effort that advocates for a just and lasting peace for Sudan, including steps that can be taken to get the United States more involved in addressing this issue.

Recently a documentary film titled "Darfur Now" (which has played in New York and Los Angeles) has attempted to make vivid the Sudanese sponsored mass murder of that country's civilian population. The United Nations has estimated that by 2007, 200,000 people had been killed and 2.5 million displaced from their rural villages in Darfur

A Report On The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund is a One Great Hour of Sharing ministry. Our bulletin board contains the most recent publication from PDAF which contains reports of the fund addressing: (1) the devastation of Hurricane Katrina with volunteer mission groups rebuilding 300 homes this past year;(2) work with the Sudan Council of Churches bringing together sheikhs, women, and youth and empowering them with skills and knowledge to resolve conflicts peacefully. (the trainees have set up conflict resolutions and reconciliation committees in five camps in south Darfur; (3) agricultural training programs improving productivity in Haiti;(4) the Lebanon Care Program responding to the emergency following the July 2006 conflict between Israel and



Music Department

Peg Angus

The American Guild of Organists Region VII (Southwest) Convention last summer was addressed by Dr. Blair R. Monie, pastor of the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Monie spoke on the importance of music in the worship service. Reference was made to Job: 38 (often referred to by our own Pastor Tom), where God reminds Job of the glorious beginnings of creation "when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy."

It is the duty of the church musician to bring this joy to the parishioners through music. I often select preludes based on old, familiar hymn tunes. There is something comforting about hearing these old tunes which remind us of happy times, perhaps Sunday School Days or perhaps more carefree times. In this time of turmoil, we need to be reminded that times can be happier, just as Job needed to be reminded.

It is my hope that the prelude will prepare you mentally for worship, putting aside the cares of the day for a while. The offertory is just a short, reflective piece and the postlude should say, "Go forth and share what you have learned!"

Dr. Monie also said, "Each Sunday I preach, it is the anthem that preaches to me." With this in mind, I have chosen, with great care, anthems for the Advent/Christmas season. All are fresh and new and at the reading of their message the choir will have begun to work diligently on them. I do so enjoy the choir rehearsal, not only for the music, but also the camaraderie which we have. It is a true blessing.

The Great Work

"The great work now, as we move into a new millennium, is to carry out the transition from a period of human devastation of the Earth to a period when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner.

This great work is not a role that we have chosen. It is a role given to us, beyond any consultation with ourselves. We were chosen by some power beyond ourselves for this historic task. The nobility of our lives depends upon the manner in which we come to understand and fulfill our assigned role. The most valuable heritage we can provide for future generations is a sense of this great work that is before us of becoming participating members of a comprehensive Earth Community wherein all living beings are subjects, and not objects, and each a mode of divine presence.

Only recently has the deep pathos of the Earth situation begun to sink into our consciousness. The industrial economy has let loose awesome forces disturbing the life-systems of the planet. We must seek and find a new energy to guide us for the Great Work that is before us, to move into the Ecozoic Era, a period of mutually enhancing Human-Earth relations."

Rev Thomas Barry, shared by Catherine Kellogg

the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah; (5) establishing temporary emergency shelters in Peru after the earthquake; (6) rebuilding in Mexico after Hurricane Dean; (7) rebuilding in Honduras and Nicaragua after Hurricane Felix; (8) relief and recovery efforts in central United States after spring and summer storms and flooding; (9) assistance in California after the recent fires.

We are in these places as Presbyterians, usually before any governmental aid is available, addressing the results of disasters wherever they may occur.

Advent Season at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

Theme: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called: 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'" Isaiah 9:6

First Sunday of Advent Dec. 2 Lighting the Candle of Hope

Sermon: "Wonderful Counselor"

Second Sunday of Advent Dec. 9 Lighting the Candle of Peace

Sermon: "Mighty God"

Monday Dec. 10 Pastor Tom's Christmas

Dinner Party at the Manse for Deacons, Session Members, officers, Staff, and Spouses.

Third Sunday of Advent- Dec. 16 Lighting the Candle of Joy

Sermon: "Everlasting Father"

Sunday afternoon Dec. 16 4 pm Tree

Decorating and Stuffing Christmas Stockings

Soup and Sandwich Supper

7:00 pm Fourth in our Film Series – Millions.

See article, page 2

Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec. 23 Lighting the Candle of Love

Sermon: "Prince of Peace"

CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00pm

A Candle Light Service

Lighting the Christ Candle

A Service of Lessons and Carols with several of our members, reading the scripture passages that tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child, interspersed with singing carols and special music.

Saturday December 29 10:00 am: Blessing of the Animals.

You are encouraged to bring your animals for a service in which we honor all of God's creatures, and we make a commitment to those which are under our care.



Advent Quilts by Bobbie Sullivan, quilt artist, for the Regis College Chapel, Weston, MA. One quilt is put up each week during Advent. Every quilt is a design within itself, reflecting the bible readings of that week. When all four are seen together they make one large scene. Like lighting a candle each week on the Advent wreath, the placing of another quilt marks time and creates anticipation the quintessential Christmas emotion.



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