

## Pastor's Corner

### Another Academic Year

Pastor Tom Philipp



As a small child I learned to make two figures: a line and a circle. I would learn in time that all other figures are derivatives of these two basic figures. Later I came to realize how these two figures took on symbolic meaning. A line was used to indicate movement forward (or backward); the circle came to symbolize 'no change – progress or regress.' "Going around in circles" meant getting nowhere, it meant routine (which seemed to imply boredom as well). The circle had another meaning, however, and a very significant one: it meant eternal, having no beginning or ending. The circle became a symbol for God.

Later, when I became a history major in college, I studied 'philosophies of history' and came to realize that basically there are two viewpoints regarding history: the linear and the circular. The one implied that history was a constant unfolding of the new, history was going somewhere – it was taking one forward into new adventures, new challenges, new crises, victories and defeats. The other school of history would argue that history moves in a circle, always repeating itself; that there is really "nothing new under the sun," because violence continues, wars continue, "all is vanity". The circular view is pessimistic; the linear view is optimistic. The linear view is open to possibilities for the future, both success and failures.

I have the two figures of a line and circle in mind as September arrived. A new school year is underway, and we begin another program year at Old South Haven Presbyterian church. How do I look at this? How do you look at this? How do we together look at this? Will it be another lap around the circle, covering the same familiar ground again, quite comfortable, nothing new? Or will it be stretching along a line into the future. A line not yet drawn, the future quite unknown. Risky? Yes. Uncomfortable? Yes. Quite challenging? Yes.

I don't want to take just another lap around the track so familiar to us. I want to go forward into a way not yet known, with compass in hand, but no



## Danny Is Leaving Us

Our organist, Daniel Corneliusen has given notice on Sept 13 that he is resigning to take another position.

His letter follows:

"I am sorry to say that I am resigning from my position here as organist. I have been extremely lucky and am grateful to have had the chance to be a part of this church for the past year and nine months. I am especially thankful for the warm reception and wonderful friends that I have here. This is a place that I am sure I will miss very much.

I would like to say that deciding to leave Old South Haven was not an easy decision to make. Really the reason that I decided to leave is my financial situation – not because I do not love being here. I have taken a position at another church that offers a larger salary – and I must admit I do think this will be better for me in the long run even though Old South Haven is such a nice place. I have not been able to find many other sources of income.

Again, I am very sorry to be leaving Old South Haven, and I do wish the church the very best for their future. Thank you all so much and God Bless."

Daniel Corneliusen

Danny will be with us through the 11th of October except for Sunday, October 4, when he is giving a recital in Virginia). He has also forwarded to us names of three fellow students at Stony Brook who may have an interest in the position.

We will schedule a time to say "goodbye" in the next few weeks. Pastor Tom has expressed our best wishes to Danny in his new position.



map. I want to be as Abraham and Sarah, going forth, not knowing where we are going. And there is the promise: "Lo, I am with you always."

PS. The Presbytery recently created a small church task force to which Sean Moran and I have been appointed. Part of our work is to identify options for congregations who can no longer support a pastor at their current level. This would include better sharing of resources among congregations. A good example is the situation with the congregations in the Mid Suffolk Parish.





## Caithness Grant Resubmission

Old South Haven's first proposal for Caithness Community Benefit Funding was rejected by the Caithness Citizens Advisory Committee. This decision was based on the judgment of the legal advisor to Councilwoman Connie Kephart not to grant monies "for religious purposes."

John Deitz, Richard Thomas and Pastor Tom requested and received an appointment with Councilwoman Connie Kephert, questioning and challenging this decision indicating that our church building, known in our history as a "meeting house" is used for community events in addition to being our worship facility. At the meeting with the Councilwoman and members of her staff, Old South Haven was encouraged to resubmit the proposal basing our request on the need to maintain our historic structure. (Our first proposal evidently didn't make this argument strong enough).

Thanks goes to Richard Thomas for making changes in our resubmitted proposal, strengthening the case for the significance of our "meeting house" in the history of this community and the importance to maintain it because of this significance. We await the Advisory Committee's decision.

## Morning Worship Assignments

6-Sep	W. Scott	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
13-Sep	S. Moran	S. MacKay	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
1-Nov	W. Scott	F. Decker	G. LaFace
8-Nov	S. Moran	S. Welgoss	H. Altomare
15-Nov	Sunday School	S. MacKay	L. Scott
22-Nov	H. Altomare	S. Moran	C. Kellogg
29-Nov	J/E Morgan	J. Neal	N. Best
6-Dec	W. Scott	L. Scott	D. Stevens
13-Dec	K. Barry	J. Barry	A. Wiswall
20-Dec	Sunday School	B. Mullahy	L. Majowka
24-Dec	J. Neal		J. Deitz
27-Dec	J/E Morgan	L. Majowka	K. Tilney

## Old South Haven Fall Film Series

We launch this series of films on Sunday, September 20 at 7:00pm in the Gallery. The first film will be "**Hear and Now**". In this deeply personal memoir, filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky documents her deaf parents complex decision to leave the world of silence and undergo a dangerous surgery to get cochlear implants – the only one of its kind that can restore a sense of hearing. How will this operation transform them and their relationship with each other. Our own George Stoney comments: "In addition to its information about a complex medical condition, it presents a love story and involving people well along in life. It may well spark a discussion about misconceptions regarding relationships."



Except for September, the film series moves to the 2nd Sunday evening of each month.

October 11, 7:00pm: "**The Drummer**." Sid, a rebellious son of a savage triad boss in Hong Kong, whom he despises, flees and joins a group of Zen drummers, eventually converting him from being wild and deviant into a firm and focused young man. There remains the question of his relationship to his family.



November 8, 7:00pm: "**Food Inc.**" explores the way society decides what to eat and how, as we have turned into a fast food community settling for unhealthy meals. This film, which had a long run in Manhattan, has been critically acclaimed and criticized and will cause us to look at what comes to our tables this Thanksgiving.



December 13, 7:00pm: "**Frozen River**" This 2008 film takes place in the days before Christmas near a little-known border crossing on the Mohawk reservation between New York State and Quebec. Two women – one white, one Mohawk, both single mothers faced with desperate circumstances, are drawn into the world of border smuggling across the frozen water of the St. Lawrence River.



There is no charge for these films; even juice and pop corn are provided.



## Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

Rev. Thomas J. Philipp, Minister  
Daniel Corneliusen, Organist

South Country and Beaverdam Roads  
(Mail: PO Box 203)  
Brookhaven, New York 11719  
Telephone: 631-286-0542

Email: [ContactUs@OldSouthHavenChurch.org](mailto:ContactUs@OldSouthHavenChurch.org)

