

Pastor's Corner:

Hearing from additional voices

Pastor Tom Philipp



"Is the New Testament missing a few books? In a move that may seem heretical to some Christians, a group of scholars and religious leaders has added 10 new texts to the Christian canon."

That is the opening sentence to a news article released by Religion News Service in March.

From October 10 to 12, I returned to my seminary, Union Theological in NYC for Union Days. I attend these each year the second week in October. It helps me to not only renew relationships but also to be brought up to date on current seminary life and current biblical and theological thinking. One of the interesting seminars I attended was led by Hal Taussig a visiting professor of New Testament at Union, professor of early Christianity at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and co-pastor at Chestnut Hill United Church in Philadelphia. Taussig recently chaired a 19 member council of biblical scholars - Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish - which looked at 10 additional texts than the ones in our present New Testament. These texts have come into light over the past century and date back to the earliest days of Christianity. They include some works that were rejected by the early church, including the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene and the Acts of Paul and Thecia.

The work of this council has led to the publication this year of "A New New Testament: A Bible for the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered Texts." The book is edited with commentary by Hal Taussig. I purchased this 583 page book which includes a study guide and I anticipate some interesting reading. Karen King, a member of the 19 member council, and author of "The Gospel of Mary Magdala" comments: "For the first time, modern readers can explore a range of voices and theological perspectives that have not been heard for centuries, set side by side with well-known biblical books. Old texts become freshly vibrant, and new texts open ancient avenues for renewed reflection and spiritual practice."

The assumption that the present New Testament of 27 books has always been the accepted New Testament is not true. Christian churches spent centuries engaging in arguments and political deals to decide which books would be included. Though agreement on the 27 to be included was reached in the Church Synods of Carthage in 397 and 418, in the seventh and eight centuries there were still church leaders who added or subtracted from the list of the accepted texts. Later there was the battle over approved texts in the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther was troubled by four books, Jude, James, Hebrews, and Revelation, and though he placed them in a

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Christian Education Sunday school is in full swing.

Jason Neal, Chair

The Christian Education Committee met in September to plan the fall 2013 term. It was decided that Sunday school will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Five children participated in the first Sunday of the fall term on October 13th. Darcy Stevens is spear-heading our teaching efforts this term, but is eager to work with any member interested in sharing teaching duties.



Teachers Darcy Stevens and Lorraine Gallo

Community Thanksgiving Service

The Bellport United Methodist Church will host a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24 at 4:00pm. Pastor Tom will be giving the Thanksgiving Day message. The new pastor at Bellport United Methodist is The Rev. Yuri Ando.

Advent and Christmas

Pastor Tom will be using the theme of the four Advent and Christ Candles for his Advent and Christmas Messages.

December 1: "Hope" Text: "It is good that a man should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." Lamentations 3:26

December 8: "Peace" Text: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14

December 15: "Joy" Text: "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matthew 2:10

December 22: "Love" Text: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, abide in my love." John 15:9

December 29: (the first Sunday after Christmas Day) "Christ" Text: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" Luke 2:11

Stewardship Message

Nancy Best, Chair

It's that time again....time to think about a pledge of financial support to Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. If you haven't already, you will soon receive a letter I sent to all members and friends of Old South Haven describing some of the many programs and missions maintained by our church. These include supporting missions like Inn Friendship (soup kitchen), Presbytery of Long Island, Peace Offering and more.

I urge you again this year to please consider pledging for the 2014 year. The amount is not important, but having some idea of what income we might have will go a long way to help us plan for expenses to carry out our programs and maintain our outreach to others.

Thank you for whatever you can do!

Board of Deacons

Judi Bird, Chair

On June 17 the Deacons met with members of the Session to confirm the role of the Deacons. They have been quite active during the last few months.

A potluck supper was held on Sunday, May 19 and a church picnic took place on Sunday, August 18. The fall season began with another pot luck supper on Sunday, October 13. All events had a very good turnout with the congregation and visitors. As usual, the food was delicious and plentiful.

In addition, notes and postcards have been sent to visitors attending Sunday church service. Cards have also been sent to those in the congregation who have had surgery or been ill. On behalf of the congregation, a lovely dish garden adorned with fresh flowers was sent to the family of Helen Starke.

The Deacons request that they are alerted if someone is ill or had surgery, as well as a special event to be celebrated.

In the next few months, the Deacons will be making plans for the holiday season.

Minute for Mission: Encampment for Citizenship

Jason A. Neal

On October 20th, Pastor Tom allowed me to give a "Minute for Mission" (more like five minutes) in which I spoke about the Encampment. I offered a brief word about its origins, my involvement as a participant and as an alumni staff member, as well as, information on the program we put on this summer in Richmond and our need to raise funds for next year's program and participants from Long Island and New York City. Encampment Outreach Chair Nancy Marr, another local alum of the Encampment and current member of the national board, was also on hand for the service.

Hearing from Additional Voices

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secondary position relative to the rest, he did not exclude them (Don Clossen: "The Christian Canon – How Our New Testament Came to Be.")

The figure of Jesus has been challenging from the days he walked this earth up to, and including, the present time. Early texts and even modern biographies of Jesus (my collection exceeds 100!), which reflect the author as well as the central figure, offer us a wealth of material which can enhance our own personal encounter with this Man of Nazareth who throughout the centuries and today is proclaimed as Our Lord and Savior.

Food Pantry

Sean Moran, Clerk of Session

The food pantry at St. Joseph the Worker is looking for the following items for their food shelf: baby food, baby formula, canned tuna, canned chicken, instant potatoes, sweet and regular cereal, peanut butter, noodle soup, tomato sauce, powdered milk, soup, pork and beans, rice, canned vegetables, canned fruit, juice in plastic containers, snacks, pasta, jelly, macaroni and cheese, dish detergent, hand soap, diapers sizes 5 and 6, shampoo, laundry detergent, deodorant, toilet paper, toothpaste, and tooth brushes. These articles can be placed in the basket in the Narthex.



Lawn Sale Success. Nancy Best & Sean Moran at Bake Sale table

The Presbyterian Study on Christian Marriage

The 220th General Assembly (2102) of the Presbyterian Church USA instructed the Office of Theology and Worship to prepare a study on the Christian marriage in our denomination and to distribute it to all presbyteries and congregations. The study is being examined at opportunities offered during the months of October and November at three locales on Long island as well as at the Presbytery meeting to be held on Saturday, October 26.

Long Island Transgender Day of Remembrance

Sunday, November 17, 7:30pm

Old South Haven is honored to host the 2013 Long Island Observance of the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) which is held each year on a day close to November 20. TDoR was founded in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender graphic designer, columnist, and activist, to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Alston, Massachusetts. Since its inception, TDoR has slowly evolved from the web-based project started by Smith into an international day of action. In 2010, TDoR was observed in over 185 cities throughout more than 20 countries. The observance consists of a memorial service to remember Transgender people and allies who were victims of hate, intolerance, ignorance and prejudice during the past year world-wide.

The observance will take place in our sanctuary and include speakers: Rev. Gale Jones from the Long Island Community Fellowship and Donna Riley MS; performances by Michael Ashley, Joanne Borden and Company, Tina Carr and Ron Alveras, Cindy Diamonds, the Long island Community Fellowship Choir, the Johnnie Moore Singers, Robert Urban, and Cynthia Brian-Kate and conclude with a candlelight vigil. Coffee and cake will then be served in the Carriage House. All are welcome.

Our Music Series

Our Music Series began with "Salute to American Composers" on September 7. There were 104 in attendance and both the audience and the singers were thrilled with the evening. The vocalists were: Nancy Loesch, soprano; Leslie Valentine, mezzo-soprano; Christopher Reames, tenor; and Michael Douglas Jones, bass. We were delighted that Daryl Jordan appeared as a special guest. Daniel Ragone was artistic director and accompanist.



Michael Douglas Jones, bass, with Daniel Ragone, accompanist

On Friday, October 25, the program "George Mann in Concert" was held, with special guest Michael Bonti. George Mann, guitarist, is following in the footsteps of the old Almanacs that included Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. He sang some of the greatest labor songs as well as his own songs of struggle, peace and reflections on life. This program was sponsored jointly with the South Country Peace Group.



George Mann (l.) & Michael Bonte (r.)

The following programs have now been scheduled:

Saturday, November 23, 4:00pm A memorial concert titled "Konzert for Karen: A Loving Tribute" to celebrate the life of Karen Rowley. In addition to Karen's many involvements in the Brookhaven-Bellport community she was a member of an ensemble "Ardea" which performed on a couple of occasions in our Church. Members of that group are David Dixon, Diana Foster, Deborah Love, and Lawrence Lipnik. Instruments include viola-da-gamba, recorders, and viola. The ensemble specializes in Baroque



Karen Rowley

music. Proceeds from this concert will be given to the Becker/Gambles Music Fund of the South Country Education Foundation with which Karen was associated for many years.

Sunday, December 15 A piano recital by students of one of our local piano teachers. Here is an opportunity to support these students.

Saturday, January 11 Returning by popular demand, the artists who performed at our September program are returning. Each will be singing numbers that they love to sing and tell us why.

Saturday, February 15 (or 22) In celebration of Black History Month, Daryl Jordan will perform a program she conceived and titled "Portrait of a People", a solo recital of poetry and song by African American poets and composers.



Daryl Jordan

Saturday, April 26 "Opera, Organ and More..." this will be the sixth annual afternoon recital offered as a fund raiser for the Becker/Gambles Music Fund of the South Country Education Foundation.

Saturday, June 7 Maria D'Amato (the popular soprano from our April event), together with her fiancée Dimitrie Lazich will do a recital. Maria, a member of the Metropolitan Opera recently sang the role of "Suburban Mom" in the Metropolitan's "Two Boys". She is at home on both the opera stage and the concert stage. Baritone Dimitrie has amassed significant credits both internationally and in the U.S. We are truly honored to have them perform at Old South Haven.

It is truly wonderful that we have been able to schedule these musical events for the community at large.



Worship

Claudia Taylor's family joined us Sunday, September 15. She preached her sermon, "Distracted Living.". It was great to see so many children in the pews!



Hear her sermon at:

<http://oldsouthhavenchurch.org/Audiolibrary/AudioLibrary>.

Music Department

Mark Quintana Organist/Choir Director

The Old South Haven Choir is back in session again and preparing music for the upcoming months. We welcome two new singers in addition to our regular faithful group of choristers.

Ken and Sandy Asselta will be offering their talents to our Choir this year. Sandy will sing soprano and Ken will be alternating parts in melody and bass.



I. to r., Mark Quintana, Alan Stevens, Darcy Stevens, Debra Mayo, Richard Thomas, Janet Barry, Diane Hall, Sandy Asselta. Missing from picture: Ken Asselta, Kevin Barry, Cathy Kellogg.

We have already performed for September Communion and will be contributing to future services with selections by Mozart ("Ave Verum Corpus") as well as a beautiful choral piece from the Baroque Era by Vivaldi. In addition to this we have a Celtic Thanksgiving hymn and several selections for Advent and Christmas services. One of these is entitled "Our Hope is in Emmanuel" and the other is "Light the Advent Candles", a plaintive folk style song in the minor mode which the singers are doing very well with.

In addition to our regular music for church services, we have several upcoming community musical events planned.

A very peaceful and joyous holiday season is wished for all. We hope you will be blessed by the contributions of the Music Ministry at Old South Haven Church.



"The weakness in a spiritual life that rides on rules and regulations, definitions and doctrines is that it knows only as much of God as authority defines for it. People who rely only on predigested answers know the rituals and canons of faith, but they know far too little of the God who dwells within them."

Sister Joan Chittister: "In Search of Belief"

Sean Moran, Clerk

2013 Morning Worship Assignments October - December

Oct 6	K. Tilney	D. Mayo	Neal/Unny
Oct 13	S. Moran	F. Decker	Laface/Scott
Oct 20	L. Gallo	C. Taylor	Stevens
Oct 27	J. Barry	A. Stevens	Tilney
Nov 3	K. Tilney	L. Majowka	Hall/Mayo
Nov 10	S. Moran	Jason Neal	Barry/Tilney
Nov 17	L. Gallo	Joann Neal	Best/Bird
Nov 24	M. Unny	B. Mullahy	Burgess/Gallo
Dec 1	K. Tilney	L. Scott	Neal/Unny
Dec 8	S. Moran	F. Decker	LaFace/Scott
Dec 15	L. Gallo	L. Majowka	Stevens
Dec 22	L. Majowka	D. Mayo	Tilney/Best
Xmas Eve,			
Dec 24	Neal Family	----	R. Thomas
Dec 29	J. Barry	A. Stevens	Hall/Mayo

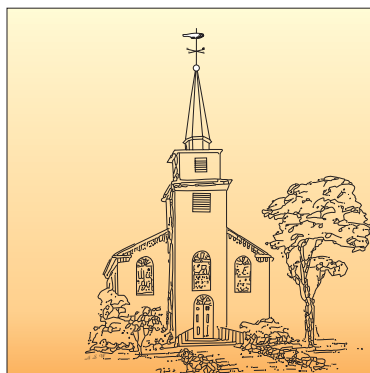
COMMUNION: NOVEMBER/Tilney; DECEMBER/Scott;
JANUARY/Best; FEBRUARY/Mayo

In memory

This past September, members of the FDNY from Engine 50 Ladder 19 in the Bronx held their third annual 343 Memorial Bike Rally from Ground Zero to Montauk Point. On the first day of the bike rally, the participants ride from Ground Zero to Riverhead. The second day is Riverhead to Montauk.

The purpose of this ride is to honor the memory of the 343 firefighters who were killed on September 11, 2001. It is also a way for the members of this bike rally to raise funds that are donated to organizations that provide for our returning military. This year they were able to raise \$50,000 to donate to Homes for Heros. Funds go directly to building homes for members of our Armed Service who have sustained devastating injuries in the line of duty.

On their journey from Ground Zero to Montauk, the members of the rally make various stops. Most are short in duration as they have a tight schedule to keep. One of the stops is at Woodland Cemetery where they stop to offer a toast to one of their fallen members, my brother, Billy. My brother did not pass away at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001, but died in a motorcycle accident on March 31, 2006. The brief stop by these people is their way of still remembering one of their own which is remarkable to me. I wanted to share this with my OSH family as it has become an event that I cherish so much every year.



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