

Challenges

Catherine Kellogg

As Old South Haven Church has, daringly, assumed a leadership role in becoming a "More Light" Church as well as retaining its prophetic role as a "Peace" Church in a time of War, I believe it is in keeping with this courageous tradition that we evolve once again by entering our Ecological phase at a time of global ecological threat.

This threat is unprecedented in all of human history. Never before, in the 2,000 years of Christendom, has all life on Earth, and the survival of Creation been at stake. All over the globe, the threat of Global Warming, the toxification of our water, air and soil, the extinction of species, is bringing about an awareness on a massive scale which is birthing creative, innovative responses. The "Greening" of every profession, institution, program and activity is now being called for, with a sense of urgency. Therefore, I propose the following for Old South Haven Church:

1.) Guided by the principles found in Mary Evelyn Tucker's book *Worldly Wonder, Religions enter their Ecological Phase*, and expressed in *The Summit on Religion and Ecology* (these Darcy Stevens has) that we study, discuss and ultimately adopt a set of guiding principles for our Church Life and its mission.

2.) That we incorporate into our worship and prayers concern for the non-human and the created order on a regular basis.

3.) That we cut back on electricity and oil usage and use only natural and biodegradable products and recycle whenever possible.

4.) That in keeping with the global paradigm shift which expands the concept of Justice beyond the human to include eco-justice, we enlarge our vision and awareness accordingly.

5.) That we find ways to speak, and live as a Church family that exemplify the "sense of the holiness of life." This is incompatible with an exploitive economy whose economic practices daily destroy life and diminish its possibility. In a time of enormous economic inequalities, that we "live simply so that others may simply live."

For churches to enter their Ecological phase,

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Pastor's Corner

A Twenty-first Century Challenge



Let me begin this column by expressing my appreciation to Catherine Kellogg. She has brought forth a challenge to our Education committee, an article which the Committee released for this Newsletter. Let me suggest that you read that article before you continue reading this column, for I wish to address it.

It has taken Al Gore and last month's "Live Earth" to boldly bring the matter of Global Warming to the attention of people around the world. More than 2 billion people were focused on 7/7/07, and with one voice, demanded an end to the climate crisis. The message and any actions that hopefully might follow from it are based on a simple premise: our home, the Earth, is in danger. It is not that today we risk destroying the planet, though there is always the possibility of nuclear destruction devastating a large portion of it, there is the risk of making this planet inhospitable for human beings.

Yes, this movement has its dissenters. Thomas Sieger Derr, Professor Emeritus of Religion and Ethics at Smith College and the author of *Environmental Ethics and Christian Humanism*, argues in the August/September 2007 edition of the magazine "First Things" (a conservative religious publication, edited by a Roman Catholic priest Fr. Richard Neuhaus) that with the media attention Gore and company are receiving "one would never know there are dissenters of distinguished credentials in the scientific community." He states that their articles are denied publication in "Science" and "Nature", the two highly reputable science journals. But these voices are few. Rather, a movement has developed in which people have come to realize (even if they are not doing much about it) that it is time to Save the Earth. People in our country and around the world are waking up to one of the greatest challenges facing us.

Catherine asks that Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, true to its history of addressing the social/ political/ theological concerns of the day make this a priority in our worship life, our educational offerings and in concrete actions. Last month a handful

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Hiroshima Day Observance

Monday, August 6

On August 6th the South Country Peace Group will host the 25th World Peace Vigil and Community Dedication to Peace in the Village of Bellport.

The public is invited to join members of SCPG at 6:45 PM at the entrance of the Woodland Cemetery on Station Road in Bellport.



The vigil consists of a silent candlelight procession to the Bellport Bay

"As soon as we saw the flash, the whole area grew dark"
Drawing / Hiroko Kanemasu August 6, 1945,
Ninoshima Elementary School, Aza Yajita,

Memorial Park. The keynote address will be given by Bob Keeler, renowned Newsday editorial staff member. Musicians Catherine Synan-Greene and Sonny Meadows will perform. Pastor Tom, Joann Neal and Pam Light will be participating and invite other members of our church family to join them.



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Pastor's Column - A 21st Century Challenge

of our members met to do some brainstorming. Several ideas emerged and in the next few weeks, you will hear of some steps that we as congregation can take. They may be small steps, but what is important is that they are steps in the right direction.

Posted on our bulletin board will be ideas gathered from religious publications, environmental groups and other churches. Accepting Catherine's challenge that Old South Haven enter into "our Ecological phase at a time of global ecological threat." I, as your Pastor, will attempt to make 'creation care' an integral part of our worship services. Look forward to a Celebrate Earth Sunday and a Blessing of the Animals Sunday as we seek to have worship restore an intimate connection with the Earth and its inhabitants. Watch for some ethical/spiritual reflection on the environment drawn from our own Reformed tradition. Watch as we seek to make some changes in our operation: lower energy use, limit trash, reuse/recycle, find ways to offer locally grown foods and fair trade products. Discover when and where we need to bring matters before our local and national governmental officials.

Father Thomas Berry has called "ecological restoration" the great work of our time. We will join others to get on with that work and in ways, using the words of David Rhoads, editor of *Earth and Words: Classic Sermons on Saving the Planet* are visionary, adventuresome, prophetic, grace-filled, inviting and celebratory of creation".

What a Challenge, What an Opportunity, What Rewards



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Kellogg - Challenges

much study, thought, and consciousness-raising is called for. It cannot happen over night. But, I, for one, believe that, at this time of peril, God is calling each one of us to do so, and those who have children and grandchildren fear for their lives on Earth unless we collectively find the way to a sustainable future.

A Word from Reinhold Niebuhr

During devotions at the last session meeting, Pastor Tom remarked that we were not making the progress we had hoped to be in solving the world's problems (even at a local level a church such as OSH could.) He said he was drawn back to words written by his former teacher and American theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr in 1952. The Session wished for this passage from *The Irony of American History* to be shared with the Congregation in this newsletter, along with words from Gandhi which were also read at the Session meeting.

"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness"

7 Deadly Social Sins

Politics without Principle
Wealth without Work
Commerce without Morality
Pleasure without Conscience
Education without Character
Science without Humanity
Worship without Sacrifice

Gandhi



Sunday School

Many thanks go to Janet Barry who shared her creativity and love at Sunday School for the second semester. Appreciation is also expressed, Janet, for organizing the Sunday School Picnic at "Steamers"! Kids of all ages had a great time, on the trains and off.

Darcy Stevens

Daily Vacation Bible School

Once again we will join with Bellport Methodist Church in offering a Daily Vacation Bible School held at the Methodist Church from Monday, August 20 through Friday, August 24. Please see Pastor Tom to register any child.

Monday Lunch Group

After not meeting for a couple of months, the Monday Lunch Group resumes on Monday, July 30, at the home of Ann Wiswall. Just bring a sandwich or whatever and join us for a relaxed time of conversation centered in being members of a church family All are welcome.

On TV

Our church facility and the church grounds was the setting for a TV shoot.

A crew was at Old South Haven on Thursday, July 19. We have no idea what particular TV program this will be. Pastor Tom said: "I hope it is not a murder mystery!"

APPEAL FOR THE MINISTRIES

In February, the Session both endorsed *The Ministries* as a part of OSHC's mission effort for 2007 and entered into partnership with First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson in petitioning the Presbytery to likewise support the Ministries programs.

The Ministries serves those in need on Long Island each year with food, clothing, assistance with heat and electric bills, summer camp and adoptive services, emergency shelter for teens at Seabury Barn, and counseling services for both teens and adults. This year marks the 40th anniversary of this ecumenical organization; people of differing faiths acting out that faith by service to our community.

If you wish to donate to this mission cause, please write a check to OSHC, with "The Ministries: designated in the memo field. And whether or not you choose to make a donation, please visit our web site - www.theministriesonline.org. which is now being updated at regular intervals.

Alan Stevens

The Greater Bellport Coalition

For the past several months representatives from various civic groups in the Greater Bellport area have been meeting together in with staff from Sustainable Long Island. This later group engages residents, business and property owners, and government officials in a process to identify workable solutions to improving the community. The Coalition has now scheduled a series of workshops and "vision" events to be held during the months of July and August. A flier describing each of these events has been posted in the Gallery. Topics being discussed are "safety, health and the environment" "land use" "transportation and sustainability" The geographical area being looked at is North Bellport, particularly the area around Station Road and Montauk Highway. For more information you may call 516-873-0232 or check the website: <http://www.GreaterBellportCoalition.com>

Our Harpsichord Looking For A New Home

The church has a harpsichord which is looking for a new home. Catalogues price "unassembled kits" for this instrument at \$975. Ours is in need of some adjustment and minor repairs. It is available to any church member who can put it to good use. If there are no takers we will make it available to other Presbyterian congregations and then to the general public. The new owner would be responsible for transporting it to its new home. Any donation for this instrument would be appreciated.

Upcoming

Friday, August 3, 10:30 am. **Property and Finance Committee** in the Gallery.
Sunday, Aug 5, 10 am. Final sermon in the series on **Spiritual Health**.
5. Attitude "Trust the Doctor. Trust Yourself."
Monday, Aug. 6, 6:45 pm. **Hiroshima Day Observance** (see article).
Sat, Aug 11, 8:20 am. **Session Retreat** at Little Portion Friary.
Sunday, Aug 12, 10 am. **Morning Worship followed by Brunch**.
Saturday, August 18, 9 am. **Car Wash** at the Church held by John Morgan.
Monday, Aug 21-Friday, Aug 24. **Daily Vacation Bible School** held at Bellport Methodist Church.



BOARD OF DEACONS

Over the last several weeks, cards, flowers and fruit baskets have been sent to those unable to worship with us.

The Deacons have been sending "Notes of Welcome" to visitors who have worshiped at Old South Haven. As you greet and talk with a visitor, please encourage them to sign the guest book in the narthex including their full address.

After Worship on **Sunday, August 12th**, we're planning a **Fellowship Brunch**. We hope you will be able to stay after worship and join us for a light meal and conversation.

Reminder: As you are aware, the Deacon's Fund relies on the congregation's monetary contributions. We are appreciative of anything you feel able to give.

Thank you, *Kappy Tilney*

The Serenity Prayer

Several of you who attended worship on July 22 in which Pastor Tom quoted the whole of Reinhold Niebuhr's Prayer known as the Serenity Prayer, asked that the full prayer be printed in this News Letter.

"God grant me the grace to accept with serenity the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as the way to peace. Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right, if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next." Amen
The prayer was written in the years of World War II and the context for it was the world's condition at the time.

Church Survey/Session Retreat

A questionnaire has been mailed to church members asking for a prayerful response to the questions provided. The responses will be used by the Session as it develops a Mission Study for the next chapter in this Congregation's life. The Session will be holding a retreat at Little Portion Friary in Mt. Sinai on Saturday, August 11 for this purpose. Please keep our church officers in your prayers in this challenging, and we trust, creative time.

Thank You Notes

On behalf of my father, I would like to thank all of my Old South Haven family for their love and support during the loss of my mother, Joan E. Moran. This has always been a special community to me and your love has greatly helped me through this difficult time. God bless you all.

Sean P. Moran

Thank you so much for the basket of Fruit. It was lovely and I felt very much a part of the OSHC family, even though I was not able to be present with you during the time I spent with my family.

Joann Neal & family



MUSIC DEPARTMENT Brief History of Music in Worship

Have you ever wondered where the idea for the pipe organ originated?

No one knows exactly when but it is commonly believed that organs were first used for worship about the 13th century in Europe, some of those still in use today. However, archeologists have found drawings of primitive pipe organs used as far back as ancient Egypt.

The flute was one of the most used instruments in worship according to the Hebrew Scriptures, along with the harp and various percussion instruments. Some early flutes resembled oboes, using reeds and attempts were made to blow more than one at a time.

Eventually the idea emerged to mount several pipes, or flutes, on a bellows box which was pumped by hand and a simple keyboard was attached to control the air supply to each pipe. The instrument evolved incorporating different kinds of pipes, more sophisticated wind chests and multiple keyboards or manuals. The early organs, up to the 17th century had no pedals.

The bible tells us of the use of instruments in worship as far back as the 4th Chapter of Genesis. In patriarchal times, music played an integral part of worship and by the time of David, sacred music had become more sophisticated. 2 Chron. 5:12, 13 speaks of 120 trumpeters along with other instruments and singers. Many of the Psalms appear with expressions such as: "to the director" indicating that sacred music in David's day was well organized.

Over the years, sacred vocal music has also evolved with some religions actually banning polyphonic or harmonized music, even forbidding the use of instruments to accompany singers.

In the end, is there a right or wrong in what makes music worshipful? It is a fact that different churches have different philosophies of music. The point made by history, however, is that music in any form has been an important part of worship from the beginning. Yes, even the birds sing praise to their Maker.

Peg Angus.

Do you have a favorite Movie you'd like to share?

The Session is exploring a mini-film Festival for the Fall. The idea is to have a monthly film projected on a large screen of movies not usually found in commercial theaters in our area of Long Island. While our goal is to show films that are educational, thought-provoking and challenging, this does not mean that they can't also be entertaining. Documentaries – shorts – full length – classics. We'll serve popcorn and drinks. And maybe a little wine and cheese. Give your ideas to John Deitz.

Conservation

BRING A MUG TO CHURCH

One you can spare at home and recognize easily. Use it for coffee hour, meetings and potluck, rinse it and store it in the cabinet in the Gallery.

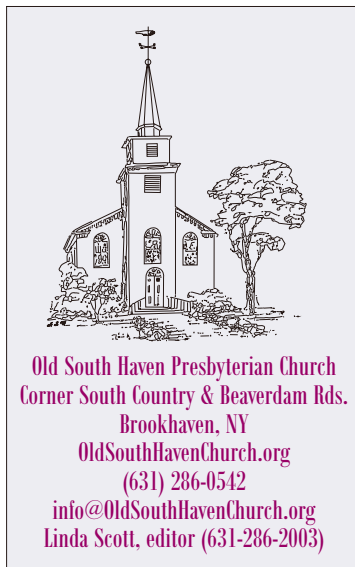


"Green thumbed" vegetable gardeners are invited to share their extras at coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Takers are welcome to contribute a little extra to the offering plate, and we will get a start on eating more locally grown or produced food.

MORNING WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Lay Leader</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Aug 5	W. Scott	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
Aug 12	A. Wiswall	J. Neal	H. Altomore
Aug 19	C. Kellogg	L. Scott	P. Light
Aug 28	K. Morgan	J. Barry	A. Wiswall

If you have a conflict with your schedule, please call Ann Wiswall at 286-0384



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