

Pastor's Corner

From Holy Week to Easter



Pastor Tom Philipp

You will probably be receiving this issue of the Newsletter as we are about to enter the most sacred period in the church year. Holy Week is a time to remember in wonder and in humility God's love manifested on a cross. We must not move too quickly toward Easter or the reality of suffering and death will lose its meaning.

I would ask you this week to ponder the words to be found in the Christian classic "The Imitation of Christ" dating back to the year 1374 and edited by Thomas a Kempis:

"Jesus has many who love his heavenly kingdom, but few who bear His cross. He has many who desire consolation, but few who care for trial. He finds many to share his table, but few take part in His fasting. All desire to be happy with Him; few wish to suffer anything for Him. Many follow Him in the breaking of bread; but few to the drinking of the chalice of His passion. Many revere His miracles; few approach the shame of the Cross. Many love Him as long as they encounter no hardship; many praise and bless Him as long as they receive some comfort from Him. But if Jesus hides himself and leaves them for a while, they fall either into complaints or into deep dejection. Those, on the contrary, who love Him for His own sake, and not for any comfort of their own, bless Him in all trial and anguish of heart as well as in the bliss of consolation. Even if he should never give them consolation, yet they would continue to praise Him and wish always to give Him thanks. What power there is in pure love for Jesus – love that is free from all self-interest and self-love."

In our Wednesday night Lenten Series, with its theme "Living with the WHYS", one of our programs, this one held in First Presbyterian Church of East Moriches, focused on the WHY of personal tragedy. In a most moving worship service we heard a series of readings from the scriptures, each of which spoke of an individual experiencing the pain of personal tragedy. Then a member of the congregation, Reba Dunwell, spoke of her experience several years ago of going through a divorce and then the death of her grandson in Iraq within in a few weeks. She spoke of feeling devastated and wondering about even going on. Once, while on her

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Member's Reflections

Note from the editor:

We thank Ann Wiswall for sharing this piece written by her late husband.

As I See It

Our minister has kindly suggested that I write something about my thoughts on church-going and preaching. It is with some diffidence, and with a desire for the opinions of others on these topics, that I offer the following:

Most of us try to be good citizens and to keep abreast of the news, by way of radio, TV or newspapers. However, this can endanger our faith. Life as it appears in the news is much as Macbeth described it: a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. To counter this impact and review our faith in the goodness of God, we Christians turn to the Gospel, the Good News. To hear this news we attend Sunday service. There the ravages of six days in the secular world are repaired.

Hearing the good news, we find new incentive to seek rebirth as children of God, and to do His will in the world. The world is sick and calls for cure; but every Christian has to devote as much attention to changing himself or herself as to changing the world. Unless we are changed, our efforts to help others will be of little use. Only the good tree bears good fruit.



Richard Wiswall
September 4, 1985

Holy Week

April 5th - Palm Sunday: 10:00am

Sermon: "As He Passed By." Lessons: Isaiah 50:4-9; Luke 19: 28-42. Choir Anthem: "Palm Branches."

April 9th - Maundy Thursday: 7:30pm

The Seder Ceremony and Holy Communion

April 10th - Good Friday: 7:00pm

Bellport Methodist Church. Based on Seven Last Words. Rev. Rasmussen and Rev. Philipp

April 12th - EASTER: 6:00am Sunrise Service

at Bellport Dock. Meditation given by Rev. Philipp

10:00am Morning Worship

Sermon: "So We Proclaim" Lessons: I Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16: 1-8. Special music Rui Li, guest trumpeter

Pastor's Corner

knees and in lonely pain at a 'holy place' she felt engulfed by the arms of the Christ. In that experience, which she continues to experience, she has found the strength to continue on with her life. At this Wednesday night service we observed communion in a new way—a powerful way: we came forth and took the filled individual cup and, thinking of our own personal hurts or tragedies, we poured the contents into the chalice. After all had come forward, a prayer was offered indicating the community of shared hurts. Then we came forward again to receive through intinction. Yes, it was the Cup of Sorrows and the Christian community there gathered shared in it together.

We must never forget that Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane asked "If it be possible remove this cup from me." We must never forget that Jesus on the cross cried out "My God, my God why have you forsaken me." Surely he then must have felt engulfed by the 'everlasting arms' of God that allowed him to say in complete trust, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit."

May the reality of the pain expressed by Jesus both in the Garden and on the Cross, coupled with the experience "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end," not only give you the strength to continue on life's often painful road of loss and other tragedies, but lead to the glory of Easter morning, and the experience that death is not the end ... for new life can spring forth. A most Glorious Easter to you all.

Pride in the Pulpit

Pastor Tom has joined 60 of his clergy and religious leader colleagues on Long Island (with the number growing) who have signed a statement of support to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender New Yorkers. Specifically the statement: (1)"urges the New York State Legislature to protect families in New York State by extending marriage to same-sex couples"; (2)"urge state lawmakers to protect all New Yorkers from discrimination in work, housing, education, credit, and public accommodations because of their gender identity"; and (3)"urge state lawmakers to proactively protect students in public schools from a pervasive and debilitating bias-based harassment and bullying, including on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and expression".

Pastor Tom will be participating in LGBT Equality and Justice Day in Albany on Tuesday, April 28, joining others on a bus leaving from Suffolk. He invites others to join him. Cost is \$40. In addition, he invites others to sign a letter to be sent to State Senator Brian Foley encouraging his 'yes' vote on this legislation. Recently a group met with Sen. Foley and he expressed tentative support if his constituents voice their support. A letter to that effect will be available at coffee hours.

Session

The Session at its meeting on March 16th welcomed Elder Nancy Best as its newest member, elected by the congregation to active service at the Congregational Meeting on February 8th. She replaced Elder Linda Scott who was not eligible for reelection. Linda was elected to the Board of Deacons.

The Session renewed the contract of Pastor Philipp for an additional one year term. His contract was modified slightly, reducing his part time service to nineteen hours per week (from twenty hours) without any change in his salary or benefits. This seemingly minor change eliminated the requirement for the payment of post retirement dues to the Board of Pensions, and reduced our projected budget deficit for 2009 by \$3600, to about \$5400.



Board of Deacons

Kappy Tilney, President



The Board of Deacons thanks Janet Barry for her faithful service over the last six years.

Linda Scott succeeds Janet for a 3-year term and Katherine Frankie, Catherine Kellogg and Steve Welgoss have agreed to serve a second 3-year term.

Thank you all for your willingness to serve.

Board of Deacons: Katherine Frankie (286-6301), Cathy Kellogg (286-8892, Linda and Bill Scott (286-2003), Kappy Tilney (286-0024) and Steve Welgoss (917-572-6667).

Flowers, welcoming Claudia, and Thinking of You, Get Well and Valentine's Day cards have been sent. The practice of sending Welcome notes to visitors continues. If you find yourself greeting a visitor, please encourage them to include their address when signing the guestbook in the Narthax.

Easter cards and flowers will be sent or delivered to members and friends who will be unable to worship with us.

ALTER FLOWERS

If there is an occasion you wish to commemorate with altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet in the Gallery. If you require vases, please call Kappy (286-0024) regarding the size and when you wish to put them on the altar. Nancy Best (286-1659) will be happy to include the in memory/honor of in the bulletin. Please contact her by Wednesday of the appropriate week.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Steve and Karen Welgoss on the birth of Claudia Dawn on February 10. Claudia joins her sisters Erika and Rebecca. She will be baptized at Old South Haven on Sunday, March 29. What a wonderful and welcome addition to our church family!

“Opera, Organ and more”

The Becker/Gambles Music Fund of the South Country Education Foundation will present a program at Old South Haven Presbyterian on Saturday, April 4 at 5:00pm.

The program features Michael Douglas Jones, bass; Mihaela Buhaiciuc, soprano; Leon Livshin, pianist and Robert Price, organist.

Ms. Buhaiciuc, a native of Romania, made her debut in 2000 with the Brasov National Opera House in Romania. She holds a Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice performance from SUNY Stony Brook. Dr. Buhaiciuc is presently teaching voice at the University of Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Jones is originally from Hawaii and now lives in East Patchogue. He made his New York City Opera debut in Madama Butterfly. He has performed in Victoria, B.C., Anchorage, El Paso, Montreal, El Paso and Memphis. He won the prestigious Jessie Award for “outstanding performance by an actor in a leading roll”. Recently he has recorded an all jazz CD with the jazz legend Fred Ho.

Mr. Livshin is a native of Lithuania. In 1997 he came to the US on a full scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Steinway Hall as well as in concert halls in Europe. He presently teaches at Stony Brook.

Mr. Price is a native of Long Island. While still a teenager he was the organist at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Floral Park. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from the Manhattan School of Music and his Masters from the Mannes College of Music. In 2007 Mr. Price passed the prestigious Colleagues Examination by the American Guild of Organists. He serves presently as the organist at Setauket Presbyterian Church, and teaches piano, organ and bassoon.

The Becker / Gambles Music Fund
of the
South Country Education Foundation, Inc.

Presents

*Opera,
Organ
and more...*

Saturday, April 4, 2009
5:00 pm

Old South Haven Presbyterian Church,
Corner of South Country Road and Beaver Dam Road
Brookhaven, NY 11719

Adults: \$20.00
Free to students of South Country Schools
All Proceeds support the Summer Music Scholarship Program
of the Becker / Gambles Music Fund

Featuring

Michael Douglas Jones <i>Bass</i>	Robert Price <i>Organ</i>	Mihaela Buhaiciuc <i>Soprano</i>	Leon Livshin <i>Pianist</i>
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Ticket price is \$20.00 for adults and is free to students of South Country Schools. All proceeds support the Summer Music Program of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund.

Additional information at the South Country Education Foundation: <http://www.scefonline.org/>

Long Island Presbytery to Vote on Amendment 08-B

At its March 31 meeting, the Presbytery of Long Island will vote on Amendment 08-B, which would replace the current constitutional language for church officers, with its narrow focus on "fidelity and chastity," with broader, more faithful language emphasizing discipleship to Jesus Christ. Approval from 87 Presbyteries is required for adoption; the vote as of March 24th was 56 Yes, 80 No, with many Presbyteries who have voted favorable in the past yet to vote. More information at

<http://www.covenantnetwork.org/home.htm>

Lunch Bunch

Ann Wiswall

The next meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be hosted by Betty Gardner at 14 North Brewster Lane, Bellport, 12:30 pm. Bring a sandwich and join in the conversation.

The Lunch Bunch meets once a month, usually on the 1st Monday, at 12:30 pm, at various members' homes.



Hymn Festival with Gerre Hancock

The Suffolk Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is providing a "lively and inspiring singing session" at St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Bay Shore. Admission is free and a free-will offering will be received. Pastor Tom will be attending and will provide transportation. Sunday, May 3 at 5:00pm.

Iman Feiseal Abdul Rauf at St. Joseph College

Imam Feiseal Abdul Rauf, a noted Egyptian-American teacher, author and faculty member of St. Joseph's College, Patchogue, will give a lecture titled "Islam in the 21st Century" on campus. His latest book is titled "What's Right with Islam IS What's Right with America." The event is free and open to the public. For more information call (631)447-8252. Pastor Tom will be attending and will provide transportation. Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 7:30pm



This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the first One Great Hour of Sharing. Over the years, thanks to the generosity of Presbyterians, the offering has made a tremendous difference to people experiencing need around the world. Though the financial crisis here in the United States has affected many of us, the world's poorest are feeling the impact much more. Our denomination has asked individuals and congregations to increase their gifts as they are able.

On Sunday, March 29 and again on Palm Sunday, April 5 you will hear of specific needs and programs in our Moments for Mission. The offering will be received and dedicated on Easter Sunday.

Additional Information on the One Great Hour of Sharing may be found at: <http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/>



Film Series The Visitor - May 11th

After a brief hiatus, the OSHC film series resumes May 11th, 7 pm, with "The Visitor."



Recommended by member Ann Wiswall, the movie is a drama in which the main character is a New England college professor, Walter, whose beloved wife died. Walter is getting by in his professional life doing the least amount of work possible. He keeps an apartment in New York City, and he has to visit there to present a professional paper. When he unlocks the door to his own apartment, he discovers a

young immigrant couple living there – they have been paying rent to the caretaker, and believe the apartment to be theirs. Walter is moved to let the young man and woman continue to stay in the apartment. The biggest problem which arises is that the couple does not have legal status in the U. S., and they get arrested and threatened with deportation.

Race or Reason, The Bellport Dilemma - June 8th

In 1969-70, when race riots were sweeping across America in the wake of the civil rights movement, Bellport & Brookhaven were caught in the storm. The high school became the scene of angry confrontations, resulting in its temporary closure and a police presence. The church was heavily involved in mediating the disputes; the Post Carriage House was actively used as a meeting place.

Betty Puleston's Brookhaven house was also used as a meeting place where students could air their

grievances. She gave them two video cameras. The hope was that they could be used to facilitate dialogue. That hope was realized, as the students recorded their concerns and felt empowered by being able to question adults in their community.

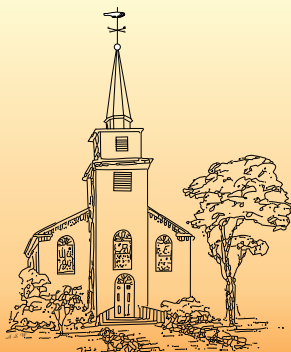
Thirty years later these same students regrouped to view the tapes. The images clearly reveal the passion of the young activists who felt that minority rights could no longer be ignored. We learn that the students have gone on to lead productive lives -- a social worker, lawyer, community organizer, and a policeman are among them.

This 2003 film was directed by Betty Puleston and produced by George C. Stoney. In February it was featured at the Museum of Modern Art film series.

Morning Worship Assignments

DATE	GREETER	LAY LEADER	COFFE HOUR
Apr 5 Palm Sunday	W. Scott	S. Moran	P. Light
Apr 12 Easter	H. Altomare	J. Deitz	R. Thomas
Apr 19	K. Barry	J. Barry	K. Tilney
Apr 26	J/E Morgan	J. Neal	A. Wiswall
May 3	W. Scott	L. Scott	J. Neal
May 10	S. Moran	F. Decker	G. Decker
May 17	Jaylyn/Jack	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
May 24	K. Tilney	N. Best	S. McKay
May 31	J/E Morgan	D. Jones	C. Kellogg
June 7	W. Scott	S. Welgoss	L. Scott
June 14	K. Barry	J. Barry	N. Best
June 21	Jaylyn/Jack	A. Steven	D. Stevens
June 28	J/E Morgan	K. Tilney	K. Tilney

If you have a conflict with your assignment, please contact Kappy Tilney at 286-0024.



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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Daniel Corneliussen, Organist

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