

## Pastor's Corner

### Time for Preparing

#### Pastor Tom Philipp



All important events deserve and demand time for preparation. My calendar has four dates marked months from now for weddings. In each case the couple is allowing enough time to deal with all that is involved: secure a minister, secure the church or some other location for the ceremony, dealing with a reception, a guest list, a bridal gown, dresses for the bridesmaids et.al. Yes, a lot of preparation if that special day is "going to be just right."

The matter of preparation surfaced for me in December with the death of my brother. Bill and his wife Lois had made his funeral preparations well in advance. Months earlier they had agreed on his burial site. He picked out the casket he wanted. He wanted his daughter Rachel and me to conduct the funeral and he had several suggestions as to what should be in the funeral service itself: "a witness to the Resurrection." It was a real joy to preside at this event which was celebratory. This was due to the preparations made.

Preparation plays an important part in the rites of baptism and confirmation in our church life. Baptism is more than, as one woman once expressed in a telephone call to me: "I would like to have my baby done!!" The pastor usually meets with the parents well in advance of the baptismal date to clarify what the act of baptism means in our tradition, explaining that even as the parents (and sponsors, if such) pledge a responsibility for the nurturing of the child, so does the congregation. Yes, we at Old South Haven have a responsibility to assist in the nurturing of the child. Then, of course, there is also the matter of inviting friends, maybe having some type of reception afterward. Parents and others want it to be a memorable day and that takes preparation.

Ask any young person who has been confirmed about preparation. I insisted on 12 weeks of instruction. Some congregations insist on two years of instruction! Meeting with the Session may strike some young people as 'taking a final exam.' Hopefully, the rite of being confirmed is a joyful event for all because of the preparations that were made.

Christmas and Easter, the two major celebrations in the church year are both preceded by a time of preparation which gives the two celebrations full meaning of their

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## George Stoney to have a new School of Documentary Filmmaking named in his honor

We have received word of a special event sponsored by the Plaza Media Arts Center to be held at the Brick House Brewery, 67 West Main Street, Patchogue. The event is from 7 to 10pm on February 23. Included will be the screening of "All My Babies", which was produced in 1952 and has been described as a "culturally, historically and artistically significant work". It is the story of practices of the midwife in the Deep South amidst racial tensions.



The Plaza Media Arts Center is being proposed to be established at the former Plaza Theatre in Patchogue. A team is working with politicians, developers, community organizations and businesses to renovate the old Plaza to become the creative arts hub with studios and equipment for classes and film production to follow in George Stoney's footsteps.

We are proud to have George Stoney as a member of Old South Haven Presbyterian Church.

## Membership Grows 10% in 2010.

The Session is pleased to announce that we are growing as a congregation. This past year, Old Southaven has grown by five new members, bringing our total to 50. While that maybe small when compared to some big churches, it is fantastic when a little church is attracting people to join our family.

## New Church Officers



Brian Mullahy

Elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 13 were the following:

As members of the Session: Katherine (Kappy) Tilney and Brian Mullahy



Kappy Tilney

As members of the Board of Deacons: Judi Bird and Joann Neal

On February 20 Judi Bird was ordained as a Deacon and installed to office. All others, having being ordained and served in the office previously, were installed that day.

Clerk of Session  
Sean Moran

## Music Department

Mark Quintana, Music Director

The holiday season provided the opportunity for the Old South Haven Choir to sing several times. January 17 marked my first year as Choir Director, and the singers have come a long way, as can be seen in the more advanced repertoire they have been performing. In addition, we have expanded to include anthems from a wide range of musical genres from classical (such as Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus") to folk and spiritual selections such as "Down by the Riverside".



The 11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service was well attended, and the church was beautifully decorated, including an elevated Christmas tree in the corner. Ann Wiswall accompanied the choir on her recorder, as the choir sang an anthem in the Baroque tradition, based on Pachelbel's famous canon. Our special guest soloist Daryl Jordon offered an especially exciting highlight, (accompanied by Peggy Angus) on "Oh, Holy Night" by special request from Pastor Tom.

We also would like to mention our new choir member Diane Hall. She is a much needed addition to our alto section, which is faithfully represented with the talents of Deborah and Ann.

We are now busy preparing music for the Lenten and Easter season which is fast approaching. My hope is that we'll be able to add brass accompaniment by employing the services of a trumpet player.

Happiness and blessings to all from the music department, and enjoy your Lenten and Easter season.



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importance. We call these times of preparation Advent and Lent. In a few weeks, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 9, we once again enter the period of Lent, preparing ourselves for both the significance of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. This Newsletter contains what is being planned for this time of preparation, including our Ash Wednesday observance led by Alan Stevens and our five Wednesday night services in cooperation with the congregations of the Mid-Suffolk Parish.

Our Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday on observance with our Methodist brothers and sisters, Sunrise Service at the Bellport Dock and our 10:00 am Easter Service, all preparation for the celebration of Easter. I trust you will participate as you are able.

## Lenten and Easter Services

### Wednesday Night Lenten Series



Once again we will join with other congregations of the Mid-Suffolk Parish for the Wednesday nights of Lent. The theme is "Confrontation and the Cross".

The schedule is as follows:

- March 16: Old South Haven Presbyterian Church  
"Judas: Disciple and Betrayer"
- March 23: First Presbyterian Church of East Moriches  
"Faith and Healing, twelve years in the making"
- March 30: Grace Presbyterian Church, Selden  
"Caiaphas; The High Priest"
- April 6: Remsenburg Community Presbyterian Church  
"Certain Women"
- April 13: Old South Haven Presbyterian Church  
"Pontius Pilate: Roman Governor"

Each Service is at 7:00 pm. Transportation will be provided.

### Ash Wednesday - March 2

Once again Alan Stevens will lead us in our Ash Wednesday Service. Attendees will be given the opportunity to receive ashes. We are thankful to Alan who provides us with this act of worship that begins the Period of Lent. Service is at 7:00 pm

### Maundy Thursday - April 21

7 pm. Holy Communion

### Good Friday - April 22

Traditionally we observe Good Friday with Bellport Methodist Church. This has yet been confirmed for this year. Pastor John is still recovering from the stroke he suffered in November. This service would be at 7:00pm.

### Easter Sunrise Service



Daybreak at the Bellport Dock - We join with others from the community in this traditional service announcing "Christ Is Risen".

### Easter Service

Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. This service begins at 10:00 am.



## Church Finances Healthy

The church Treasurer Richard Thomas and Financial Secretary John Deitz report that the church's finances were slightly in the black for 2010—the first time in many years.

In 2010, the church received a \$35,000 grant from the Town of Brookhaven Community Benefit Fund. About \$18,000 was spent for shingling the church roof, repair of the steeple foundation, and refurbishing of the windows, leaving about \$17,000 available. The Session is reviewing the original priorities of our proposal—likely the repair of the interior plaster cracks and at least a partial interior repainting.

## Rev. Jean Southard Acquitted

Rev. Jean Southard (formerly Jean Deitz and a former member of Old South Haven) has been acquitted by the General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church USA. Charges had been brought against Jean who officiated at the wedding of two women at First Presbyterian Church, Waltham, MA. The church is a welcoming and affirming More Light Church (as is Old South Haven) in a state where same sex marriage is legal. Jean has been a strong advocate of LGBT concerns including same sex marriage. We give thanks for her faithful ministry. The Rev. Jeanne Baum, our former pastor, performed "civil unions" which united same sex couples. However, the wording in the ceremony did not use the terms "wedding" or "holy marriage". Holy unions cannot be challenged in our denomination. New York State has been moving closer to approving same sex marriage with support from the governor and both US senators.



## Board of Deacons

Kappy Tilney, President

During the past year, cards (condolence, thinking of you, get well, congratulation, Christmas and birthday); flowers, fruit baskets and seasonal plants

were sent or delivered to members and friends. Throughout the year, several members and friends were visited or telephoned.

The practice of sending "welcome" notes to visitors continues. Please encourage visitors to note their name and address in the guestbook located in the narthex.

The Deacons donated \$100 to the second annual Thanksgiving Day Meal at the Hagerman Fire Department. Pastor Tom attended and noted an increase in the number of guests. During the Thanksgiving/Christmas season, the Deacons "adopted" three families. One food basket (turkey with all the "trimmings") was given for Thanksgiving. Christmas giving included a food basket, gift card, baby clothes, and toys for one family and the second family received toys, games, books, and clothing.

As in the past, 182 stockings were stuffed for the residents of the Brookhaven Town House on Beaver Dam Road.

The cookbook is in its final stages and will be sent to the publisher shortly.

Our congregation has been very generous to the Deacons. It is that generosity that enables us to "look out...and lend a hand." Thank you all.

## Food Shelf

During 2010, 393 food items were delivered to St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry. The volunteers at St. Joseph are always so appreciative of our contributions. Thank you for remembering.

## Mission and Outreach

Reminder for members to please pick up an extra item for the food basket in the Narthex.

Many stores, such as Stop and Shop, have 10 for \$10 sales which is a wonderful opportunity to pick up something for those less fortunate.

Also, do you know someone who wishes they could own a pet but does not have the space or the time for proper care? How about sponsoring a cat or dog? Little Shelter Animal Shelter in Huntington offers this opportunity. Starting at \$35 a month, you could sponsor a dog or cat until the animal is adopted. It is a loving way to contribute to the upkeep of the shelter animal. For more information, please contact Arlene Leone at Little Shelter Animal Shelter at 368-8770, Ext. 206.



## Tuesday with the Lunch Bunch

Peggy Angus

Haven't experienced the Lunch Bunch yet? We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at a different home. It is an opportunity to expand our social time with our church family.

Lunch Bunch is a very informal gathering for lunch and lively discussions on various topics: latest books being read, concerns of the church, items of interest taking place in our community. It is light-hearted and great fun and an opportunity to get to know your fellow congregants.

The location is announced in the bulletin the previous Sunday. Please join us if you can. Bring your lunch and the host will provide beverages.



## Post Carriage House Report

Ann Wiswall, Carriage House Liaison

The building is being used every weekday afternoon and most evenings except Thursday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

A new group has begun renting the space Saturday afternoons for four meetings spread out over three months.

On February 12, a private party rented the Carriage House for the afternoon and early evening.

To help with managing the use and upkeep, I am forming a Committee. Lorraine Gallo, Pam Light and Ken Vitellaro have agreed to serve. Others who are interested in this effort are welcome to join.

## Buildings and Grounds 2010 Annual Report

Helen Altomare

The following improvements have been accomplished this year: New front doors have been installed on the church, electric in the sanctuary ceiling was redone so that light bulbs could be easily changed and a new rope for the bell thanks to Richard and John.

Most of the work this past year has been routine maintenance and minor repairs. Many thanks to John and Richard for all the work that they have done and to everyone who signed up and worked hard to keep our church clean.

### Morning Worship Assignments

DATE	GREETER	LAY READER	COFFEE HOUR
Feb 6	B. Scott	P. Angus	H. Altomare
Feb 13	H. Altomare	L. Majowka	D. Mayo
Feb 20	J. Barry	K. Barry	P. Light
Feb 27	Morgan	D. Jones	S. McKay
Mar 6	B. Scott	S. Welgoss	Angus/Tilney
Mar 13	S. Moran	J. Neal	C. Kellogg
Mar 20	K. Tilney	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
Mar 27	Morgan	L. Majowka	Frankie/Majowka
Apr 3	B. Scott	S. Moran	Bird/Tilney
Apr 10	H. Altomare	F. Decker	G. Laface
Apr 17	K. Tilney	L. Scott	J. Neal
Apr 24/Easter	Morgan	J. Deitz	R. Thomas
May 1	B. Scott	B. Mullahy	N. Best
May 8	S. Moran	S. McKay	Morgan/Wiswall
May 15	K. Tilney	G. Laface	H. Altomare
May 22	H. Altomare	D. Mayo	P. Light
May 29	Morgan	N. Best	S. McKay
June 5	B. Scott	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
June 12	J. Barry	K. Barry	K. Tilney
June 19	K. Tilney	L. Majowka	D. Mayo
June 26	Morgan	S. Moran	Bird/Scott

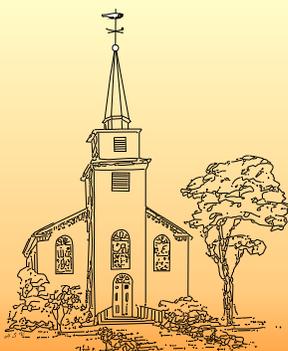
If you have a conflict with your assignment, please contact Kappy Tilney at 286-0024.

COMMUNION: February/Wiswall; March/Best; April/Tilney; May/Majowka; June/Moran

### A Scots' Offering Prayer

In Scotland there have been times when collection plates were rarely full.

During one of those dry periods, an old Presbyterian Cleric looked down at the returned receptacle plate and prayed, "Well, Lord, we thank you for the safe return of the plate".



## Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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## Opera, Organ and More Concert

April 30

Old South Haven is proud to host the third concert of the Becker/Gambles Music Committee of the South Country Education Foundation on Saturday, April 30 at 5:00pm. The event will be followed by a reception in the Carriage House. The artists who will perform are: Samantha Guevrekian, soprano; Michael Douglas Jones, baritone/bass; Andrew Fuchs, tenor; Daniel Ragone, piano accompanist; and Dr. Carol Weitner, organist. Ticket information will be forthcoming.

## An Institute of Peace in Washington

Just steps down from the Lincoln Memorial a new building is being erected—topped by a translucent white roof that resembles a giant dove—that is puzzling tourists and Washington residents alike.



It is the United States Institute of Peace, the new headquarters of the 27 year old independent institute, scheduled to open to the public in September.

A staff person commented: "All over Washington we have monuments to those who fought in wars, and rightly so, but we don't recognize peacemakers." The building is located next to the Korean War and Vietnam War memorials. Its programming will include studying the role of religion in war and peace and engage religious leaders in peacemaking. The 325 employees at the nonpartisan institute work outside the administration's foreign policy apparatus at the neighboring State Department, and they can't make government policy. The Board, appointed by the President, must be equally divided between Republicans and Democrats.

A full description of the building and the Institute's program is contained in an article in the February 22, 2011 issue of The Christian Century. The article appears on the bulletin board in The Gallery.

