

Pastor's Corner: From the Dull to Bright Mosaic

Pastor Tom Philipp



A couple of weeks ago I was sitting in my friend Doug's living room in Levittown waiting to have lunch with him down on Freeport's Nautical Mile. Though I had sat in this living room countless times this was probably the first time I was in this room at noontime rather than in the evening. My attention was drawn to a beautiful stained glass mosaic hanging and almost fully covering a prominent window. The sun shining through this window made that piece come alive for me for the first time. The colors were not only bright and vivid, the piece demanded one's attention. The full splendor of the stained glass was breathtaking and created a sense of serenity in this room. Without that light shining through, the mosaic of colors would not even have been noticed.

The mosaic image means much to me. This past Fourth of July I thought of the mosaic formed by the many nationalities that make up the United States. Often our country is described as a "melting pot" but I don't think our various nationalities have lost their separate identities and simply are melted together. Rather I appreciate the contributions each makes to the whole.

The same is true of Christianity. I am glad that we are not all Presbyterians. I appreciate the particular emphases of each of our sister denominations. I enjoy our Easter Sunrise Service joined by my Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Pentecostal colleagues, together leading that service. Last month I attended the 2012 Global Conference of College Chaplains and Campus Ministers: 475 of us from around the world representing several different faith groups: Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and others, meeting together at Yale University to explore some common concerns as well as speaking to our different and unique situations.

But stained glass mosaics say nothing, really, unless the light shines through them. Just coming together as Americans, as Christians, as members of various faith groups says little unless a light shines through them that not only illuminates the beauty of each but adds to the beauty of the whole.

I have been thinking a great deal about what it means for me to have reached five decades in the ministry and what common thread might run through those fifty

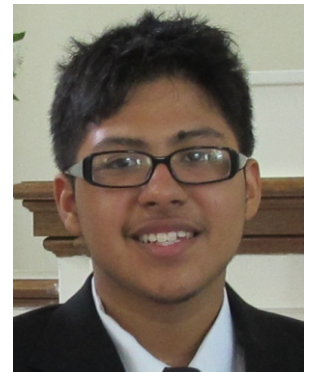
Continued, page 2, column 1

Old South Haven's Peacemaking Essay Contest

**Social Education and Action
Nancy Best**

It was a pleasure to have Byron Suarez and his family attend our June 10 Worship Service. Byron is the winner of our 2012 Peacemaking Essay Contest. Byron read his essay at the service, and he was presented with a certificate and a \$300 check.

Byron was a sophomore at Bellport High School this past year, and told us he is very interested in history. He won the silver medal in the 2012 National Latin Exam, and he's active in the school orchestra, playing the violin.



His essay dealt with the aftermath of 9/11, especially about the hatred shown toward anyone thought to be a Muslim. One of the things he told us about was two mothers, Phyllis Rodriguez whose son was killed on 9/11, and Aicha el-Wafi, mother of one of the terrorists. They met with each other and became friends, each wanting peace and reconciliation.

You can hear him read his essay at <http://oldsouthhavenchurch.org/Audiolibrary/AudioLibrary.aspx> (6/10/12)

Byron's hope is for "the future of world in peace coexisting with each other without any problems."

We congratulate Byron, and wish him the best for his future.



The Gospel In Hymns

Our Faith produces Song. Integral to our worship is the singing of hymns of praise, of comfort, of God's steadfastness, of God's everlasting love. For five Sundays we will focus on hymns that have been popular for decades. The sermons will focus on both the background to the writing of each hymn and its message.

July 8 "How Great Thou Art"

July 15 "In the Garden"

July 22 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

July 29 "Amazing Grace"

August 5 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Member's Reflection

Shirley MacKay



When Linda Scott approached me at coffee hour to contribute to this column, the timing seemed very right as we had all just heard Tom's sermon on "If you can't get out of it, get into it!". How does one say no at that point??

Linda Majowka had invited me to attend Old South Haven shortly after the death of my husband in 2005 and I sort of backed away from the idea, ultimately changing my mind and attending. I had stayed away from church for 35 years after an unfortunate experience with my church in California and was a very reticent church goer. But Tom and this congregation won me over and with small steps I began my participation.

During those 35 years, I considered being outside in nature on Sunday mornings either gardening or hiking to be my church and God was never far from me at those times. But my faith was becoming self enclosed and I needed to open up to all Old South Haven can offer. It happened by degrees and now I can't imagine being without what I have found here. I can't pinpoint the moment when I realized I "can't get out of it" and started "getting into it". I feel honored to serve as an elder and am slowly learning the ropes in this new challenge. It is a long way from the disenchanting young woman who "got out of it" in 1973 to feeling like I belong to something I really want to "get into". I am happy to be back! Thanks, Old South Haven!

My thanks to all the members and friends of Old South Haven Church for your generous thoughtful help during this sad time of the loss of my son, Ben. I am grateful in being part of this caring church family.

Ann Wiswall

Pastor's Corner

Continued

years. That mosaic in my friend's living room has helped me to see what that has been. I have been a part of different mosaics, and worked with different mosaics. In doing so I have hoped to make it possible for light to shine through the individual pieces so that there may be appreciation for the beauty of each piece, and its contribution to the beauty of the whole.

Yes, that is how I would describe my ministry here at Old South Haven. This congregation is a beautiful mosaic made up of members and friends, each unique and with his/her individual beauty, just like stained glass. My prayer is that which I repeat most Sundays as a benediction:

"And now may that LIGHT which shown in Jesus Christ our Lord, SHINE in our hearts and minds through the indwelling Word, and may that Hope which Love and Faith restores be in us and abide with us now and forevermore.

Amen

Music Department

Mark Quintana

The choir will be on hiatus for the summer after performing several times this Spring.

We will have a few Sundays for special music presentations, which we can look forward to in July and August. The singers had their last performance singing "What A Friend We Have Jesus" for the wedding of Douglas Gewelke and Howard Cramer Saturday July 7th. We were happy to be able to fulfill this request, as it was one of their favorite hymns from their early church going years. Another highlight was singing "The Wings of Dawn" for Pastor Tom's celebration of fifty years in the ministry. Diane Hall also wrote lyrics to a very interesting biography of the Pastor's life and achievements ;all to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean". A good time was had by all at Linda Majowka's party with a potluck celebration.

Have a very enjoyable and relaxing summer.

50th Anniversary Celebration

**Kappy Tilney
Fellowship Committee**

Sunday, June 17, 2012 was the 50th Anniversary of Pastor Tom's ordination. We at Old South Haven were fortunate to join Tom and his family in celebration of this important milestone. During the service, Tom renewed his vows, which was made particularly touching by the participation of his nieces, Rachel, Vione and Elizabeth Philipp. The service included Daryl Jordan singing a beautiful rendition of the "Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi".

As it was such a beautiful day, we gathered on the terrain and the celebration continued with food, wine and song. It was a joyous and happy time.

Many thanks to all who made it so.

Property and Finance Committee

Kappy Tilney

Catherine Kellogg kindly donated three forsythia bushes and arranged for them to be planted. They were planted in front of the Carriage House and join the bushes previously donated by Doug Gewelke and Howard Cramer.

Old South Haven is so fortunate in its friends and their gifts and we are so appreciative. In a similar vein, Claudia Taylor (and friends) have been working in the memorial garden and sprucing up its very au natural appearance. Many thanks.

The choir loft staircase now has a handrail. Probably something hoped for many years!

Due to some residual funds remaining in our Caithness Grant, the exterior lighting has been improved and enhanced.

Little Shelter Animal Adoption Center

**Clerk of Session
Sean Moran**

Little Shelter Animal Adoption Center will be hosting its 15th Annual Pet A Poolza on August 18th and 19th. from 9AM to 6 PM. Located at 33 Warner Road in Huntington. 100s of adoptable animals, kids games, barbeques, live entertainment, Chinese Auction, Blessing of the Animals Service , canine search and rescue demonstrations, rescue groups and face painting. 631-368-8770.

Mary's article reflects on her difficulties traveling to India and the generous support received from a member of Old South Haven. (Note from your editor - Linda Scott)

MY TRIP TO INDIA

Mary Unny

In May, 2012, I took 3 weeks of vacation, which is all the vacation time that my job entitles me to per calendar year. I was led to visit my birthplace, India, and to visit my two sisters who I had not seen in 30 years! Now, I have 3 cats, and Joann Neal volunteered to take care of them in my absence.



This trip required some planning. I had to book my airline ticket a month or so in advance. I went to Liberty Travel in Selden, NY. The cost for a round-trip air ticket from New York to New Delhi was approximately \$1,500.00. The Travel Agent booked me on Air India, leaving JFK on May 5, 2012. However, one sister, Tripti, lives in Bombay, and another sister, Preethi, lives in Baroda. So I had to book domestic flights from New Delhi

to Bombay, and from Bombay to Baroda. I then had to book a return flight from Baroda to Bombay for Tripti and myself. I would then leave Bombay for New Delhi to catch my international flight to JFK, New York. The total cost of the domestic flights was approximately \$700.00. The Travel Agent booked me on Jet Airways for the domestic flights.

I then had to get my shots. I had my hepatitis A and B shots and my polio shot. They then gave me some anti-malarial medication to take a week before departure.

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, I got a call from Air India, telling me that my flight was cancelled for administrative reasons. So, on Sunday, May 6, 2012, kind Joann Neal drove me to JFK. I walked with a light step into Terminal 4, and Joann left to go home. I had my passport. When I reached the counter, the Agent asked me for my passport, which I gladly handed over. He reviewed the pages and asked me where my Visa was. Visa? I was an Indian by birth. I had quite forgotten that I was now a US citizen and would need a travel Visa to visit India. Crushed, I turned away. The Agent directed me to the Reservations desk to reserve a flight for later on in the week, when I would hopefully have my travel Visa. I then called Joann. She was in Hempstead by this time, but the sweet angel turned around and picked me up. I explained the situation to her. Since it was Sunday, the Indian Consulate was closed. Angel Joann offered to take me to the Indian Consulate the next day. Joann's granddaughter was having a First Communion party the same day, so I partied that day with her and her family! I left my luggage in her vehicle.

When I got home later on that Sunday, I called up Air India. They told me that I could apply for a travel Visa online. I went online and discovered that the Indian Consulate had outsourced their Visa application process to a company called Trivisa Outsourcing. I filled out the Online Application-quite a lengthy one with numerous attachments! I called up Preethi and her husband, Venkat, and explained the Visa situation to

them.

Monday, May 7, 2012 rolled around and Angel Joann picked me up around 6:30AM so that we could be in the city-Manhattan, by 8:30AM. We went to the Indian Consulate.

They informed us that we would have to go to Trivisa Outsourcing, which was 15-20 minutes away, also in the city. Angel Joann found parking in a garage for her vehicle. I went upstairs to the 2nd Floor with my paperwork. Joann waited downstairs. The Trivisa Outsourcing Agent examined my papers, while I waited with my heart in my mouth! All I wanted was a travel Visa! The Agent told me that I needed a name change document, since the name on my passport: "Mary Shakti Unny", did not match my Naturalization Certificate of: "Shakti Kumar Unny"! What next?! They gave me their fax# to fax the document when I had it. I called up the attorney who had done the name change for me, Andy and Gail Wolk, but regretfully, that file had been put in storage. Gail told me that I would have to go to the Riverhead County Clerk's office to get that document. Angel Joann drove all the way from the city to Riverhead to pick up this document, which I had notarized. Joann picked up a copy of the deed to her house while we were there. That was how Monday, May 7, 2012 went.

Come Tuesday, May 8, 2012, Joann again picked me up early in the morning and we went straight to Trivisa Outsourcing. I submitted all my documents. Thankfully, everything was in order. I asked them if they could expedite the process, since I had already booked my flight. They said they would try. Joann and I spent the day in the city. We had a leisurely breakfast with coffee, and then found a place to park where we would not have to pay the exorbitant parking fees. I kept calling Trivisa Outsourcing. They said I could try contacting the Indian Consulate directly, around 2PM or so. So we went to the Indian Consulate. The Consular Officer told me that I would have to pick up my travel Visa from Trivisa Outsourcing, but that my Visa would be ready that day. So Joann found a parking garage close to Trivisa Outsourcing, and we walked over to Barnes and Nobles and spent a few hours there. At 5 PM, we drove to Trivisa Outsourcing. They said my Visa was not ready as yet, and to check back in 45 minutes. So we waited some more. Finally, Joann and I walked upstairs. My travel Visa was finally ready, and I could fly the next day! Elated, I called up Preethi and Tripti and told them the good news!

Wednesday, May 9, 2012, Joann took me to JFK, Terminal 4. This time, Joann waited for me outside. I went to the Reservations desk. The Air India Agent told me that my flight was cancelled because of a pilots' strike! Luckily for me, they booked me on Jet Airways. We had to go to a different terminal to catch that flight. The flight would go to Brussels, Belgium, and then to Bombay, India. Joann did leave then. I caught my flight. It was a 7 hour trip to Belgium. We had a 3 hour layover. I then caught the flight to Bombay. By the time I reached Bombay, it was close to 12 midnight, IST (Indian Standard Time). I had to go through immigration and customs. It was hot, in the 90's. I went outside with my luggage. My sister, Tripti, signaled to me. She finally recognized me after 30 years! We hugged. It was good to see her.

While space limitations prevented us from publishing Mary's full story, a complete copy of her visit to India can be found on the bulletin board in the Gallery or by visiting the church website---

[http://oldsouthhavenchurch.org/Newsletters/2012Issue2\(Summer\)/Unny.pdf](http://oldsouthhavenchurch.org/Newsletters/2012Issue2(Summer)/Unny.pdf)

Outreach and Mission

Brian Mullahy/Linda Scott

Old South Haven Presbyterian Church financially supports agencies and organizations of those in need.

In the upcoming issues of OSH News, the Mission and Outreach Committee will be sharing information on each of these.

Thursday's Child

Old South Haven has been supporting Thursday's Child for several years. Some of the members of our congregation participated on the Board of Directors.

The Mission of Thursday's Child is to develop, to coordinate, and to provide services to people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS on Long Island. Thursday's Child educates the public on awareness, advocacy, and prevention. A safe place is offered to go and talk about HIV/AIDS where confidentiality is honored and respected.

Thursday's Child Safety Net is designed to provide for an individual's needs in order to create a healthy, stable environment and maintain one's dignity. Items include, but are not limited to emergency food, children's needs, clothing, appliances, transportation vouchers, holiday gifts, furniture, winter coats, shoes, entertainment/respice care, eyeglasses....

Assistance is based on the availability of funds and the kindness of volunteers. For more information you can visit their website at: www.thursdayschildofli.org/services.aspx

Hello friends and family!

Jason Neal



I am planning to mark my 40th year by thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2016. Yes, that's four years from now, but it takes me a while to get warmed up. The AT is 2144 miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. My plan is to start on May 15th and finish September 11th, averaging about 20 miles each day (with rest days factored in). Between now and then, I'll be hiking (or "ruck marching" for you military folks) on Saturdays when I don't have army reserve drill.

My goal is to use the actual event to raise funds for the

2012 Morning Worship Assignments July - December

GMMÑ	Greeter	Lay Reader	Coffee Hour
15-Jul	S. Moran	B. Mullahy	Bird/Scott
22-Jul	J. Neal	D. Mayo	Angus/Tilney
29-Jul	Morgan	C. Taylor	Stevens
05-Aug	B. Scott	L. Scott	Tilney
12-Aug	H. Altomare	A. Stevens	Burgess/Gallo
19-Aug	K. Tilney	J. Neal	H. Altomare
26-Aug	Morgan	N. Best	Hall/Mayo
02-Sep	B. Scott	F. Decker	G. LaFace
09-Sep	S. Moran	L. Majowka	Frankie/Majowka
16-Sep	K. Tilney	S. Moran	Kellogg/Light
23-Sep	J. Neal	S. MacKay	Tilney
30-Sep	Morgan	D. Mayo	Bird/Scott
07-Oct	B. Swcott	F. Decker	G. LaFace
14-Oct	H. Altomare	J. Neal	Best/Wiswall
21-Oct	J. Barry	K. Barry	Neal/Unny
28-Oct	Morgan	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
04-Nov	B. Scott	D. Jones	Angus/Tilney
11-Nov	S. Moran	N. Best	H. Altomare
18-Nov	K. Tilney	L. Majowka	Frankie/Majowka
25-Nov	Morgan	F. Decker	G. LaFace
02-Dec	B. Scott	L. Scott	Kellogg/Light
09-Dec	H. Altomare	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
16-Dec	K. Tilney	C. Taylor	Hall/Mayo
23-Dec	P. Angus	J. Deitz	Tilney
24-Dec	J. Neal	—	Deitz/Thomas
30-Dec	Morgan	D. Mayo	Burgess/Gallo

Encampment for Citizenship. More details on the fundraiser piece once details are worked out...

Anyone who would like to train with me, support the effort, or join me for all or part of it, please inbox me or email me at jasontheleader@gmail.com, <http://www.nps.gov/appa/planyourvisit/upload/APPA%20Map.pdf>

Sincerely, Jason

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