

Pastor's Corner:

Reaching Beyond Our Grasp

Pastor Tom Philipp



I recently read a closing editorial by a church publication editor who was leaving that post to return to serving a congregation. He spoke of taking with him to his new ministry "unrealistic and unattainable goals." He went on to say that "My indefatigable visioning will exhaust them. At times I will feel frustrated that they are not jumping for joy over my newest idea." He finished with these words with which I very much resonate: "But together we will reach beyond our grasp, as congregations and their pastor's have done for a few thousand years."

I have shared with you the conversation I had with the senior Minister with whom I served in my first call as Assistant Minister at Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church in Watervliet, New York in 1962. After being there two weeks, Dr. Richard Evans asked me to take a few days to think through what I would like to see happen within a three year period (the usual tenure of assistant ministers at that time). He said "take your time to think this through."

It was about three weeks later that I sat down with Dr. Evans and shared my list. After reading it carefully he got up from his desk, walked to his file drawer and pulled out a sheet of paper. "The assignment I gave to you, Tom, is the same one I gave to myself five years ago when I came here as Pastor. Isn't it interesting that so many of the hopes/goals/vision are similar". I noted that alongside a few of them there was a check mark and inquired what that meant. "Those are the ones in which I feel there has been some progress." Not hopes, goals, vision REACHED but "some progress made". It was a lesson I learned: not to put limits on reaching, but being realistic about what I and those with whom I worked were able to grasp.

I like to set goals for myself. It gives me direction, motivation, and a tool to judge progress. My goals seldom are entirely reached, but neither will I be content with just what was grasped. A few months after being here at Old South Haven I prepared a list of things I hoped to accomplish.

One was better outside lighting. I was concerned that people driving or walking past the church at night would pay no attention to this beautiful structure and know we are very much in operation. That goal was well within our grasp (after a little negotiation and arm twisting!) We put the chandelier on a timer so it would be lit during the early evening hours. Many people commented on how beautiful the church looked as they saw that chandelier

Continued page 2

Elizabeth M. Gardner

June 12, 1939 – October 10, 2014

A service celebrating her life was held on Saturday Nov.1, All Saints Day. A few weeks earlier Joann Neal interviewed Betty for an article for this Newsletter. That article follows.

A VISIT WITH BETTY GARDNER

On a visit to Betty's house to interview her for this



article, Betty reminded me that her daughter attended nursery school at Old South Haven with my daughter way back in 1973 - 74. They attended Kreamer Street School together and were together all the way through graduation from Bellport High School. As Betty and I had our separate lives we saw each other often and talked about our children when we met. It was my pleasure to interview Betty for this article.

Elizabeth (affectionately known as Betty) was born June 12, 1939 in Findlay, Ohio to Max D. and Lois F. Moorhead. She grew up on a farm but her father was a civil engineer and her mother had a Bachelor's Degree and went to work as a bookkeeper in the local County Home when Betty was 10. Betty was the oldest of 4 children and attended the local school, which went from K through 12th grade. Betty took piano lessons from age 10 and enjoyed the lessons and liked to practice. She also played the euphonium, which is a baritone horn, in school. Betty was in the band and chorus and in the spring she was a participant in music competitions and scored highest in ensemble where she played piano and later sang soprano.

Continued page 2



2014 STEWARDSHIP TIME

Nancy Best, Chair

Stewardship Sunday at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church was held the first week in November. Members and friends received a letter asking that they consider their pledges for the year 2015.

Receiving pledges helps us to plan for the expenses needed for the coming year. Those expenses include maintenance and support of our historic church buildings and grounds, as well as community outreach programs such as Patchogue Inn (soup kitchen), which we recently heard about at a potluck supper.



Old South Haven Church supports many worthwhile programs, and we can't do it without you. Thank you for your help!

BOARD OF DEACONS

Judith Bird, Chair

On Sunday, June 22 the annual church picnic was held. Cheyenne Jackson, winner of the Peace Essay Contest, and her family attended. A potluck supper was held on Sunday, September 28 at the Carriage House. We were joined by special speaker Susan Kahl from The Patchogue Neighbor's INN. Susan shared how the INN serves those in need of a meal and who are homeless in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.



During the summer, sympathy, get well and birthday cards were sent to members of the congregation in addition to flowers for get well and sympathy occasions.

A donation has been made in memory of Betty Gardner to the American Parkinson's Disease Association and Ann Wiswall has received a silk flower arrangement during her recovery.

The Deacons have decided to make a donation to Long Island Cares for Thanksgiving and for Christmas a donation will be made to Thursday's Child along with toys being collected.

Thank you for your continued support. If you know of any care concerns, please notify me at birdjc@farmingdale.edu.

Continued from page 1

Reaching Beyond Our Grasp

lighting the sanctuary (peaceful, serene). Then it became improving the lighting on the steeple and on the sign facing South Country Road. In time two lamp posts also became lit along the walkway from the parking lot. That led to trimming back or removing front shrubbery to increase the view. It is a beautiful post card type picture at night. Lighting the parking lot became more of a challenge but after some planning that also has now been achieved. What still seems beyond our reach or grasp is lighting at the foot of the driveway, making it easier to find the entrance to the driveway. That remains a challenge for us. We will see if it remains beyond our reach.

My early list included doing programming for the larger community.

With the renovation of the organ made possible by a general benefactor, the late Roger Kickerer, and then the gift of a piano by the Knapp/Swezey Foundation, plus the fact that the sanctuary has wonderful acoustics we developed a music series which has been very well received not only by our members but by the community and by the visiting artists. Still a challenge for us, and maybe within our reach is additional religious/cultural events that would have appeal to the larger community. I feel the need also for developing a Bible study program to include contemporary scholarship which brings our knowledge of Biblical times and scripture up to date. I trust that will be within our grasp as we find time to do it. We cannot be content with what has been achieved because there are no doubt other challenges that can become opportunities, both those within our grasp and others which will demand that we stretch even more if they will fall within our reach.

Christmas Joy Offering

Presbyterian congregations have long expressed their Christian love for others, especially for those who serve the Church, through the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering is divided between two programs:



a) The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families (as one pastor observed, "the Assistance Program is there for us when times are tough"). In 2013 housing supplements helped 287 households and income supplements helped 304 households.

b) Racial ethnic schools and colleges of the Presbyterian Church USA. There are five schools and colleges eligible to receive funds from the Christmas Joy Offering

Opportunity to give this Christmas will be through special envelopes available the Sunday before Christmas and on Christmas Eve.

Continued from page 1

Betty Gardner

Betty attended Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. Betty majored in Chemistry and Math. She graduated with a BS. At college, Betty continued in the choir but was dissatisfied with the piano teacher after he hit her on the hand with a stick and she quit after the first semester. After her undergraduate degree, Betty was accepted into Columbia University and lived in a dorm for 5 years where she pursued her Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Chemistry.

Betty did Post Doctorate work at Brookhaven Lab where she met her future husband who was an engineer in the Physics Dept. Betty moved to Brookhaven Town in 1965 when she started at the Lab. She remained at the Lab for 2 years and then taught at what was Adelphi Suffolk and now known as Dowling college. Betty stayed there for 3 ½ years and then remained at home to raise her two children, Suzie and Andrew. In 1975 Betty started teaching Chemistry at Suffolk County Community College where she remained for 27 years before retiring.



Betty joined OSH before marriage and has been a faithful member. She admits, however, that she left OSH twice in the past and no one seemed to notice. One would hope that it never happens again that someone could drop out with no response from any member of the congregation. Through the years Betty has served on Session for a total of 12 years and was church organist for 2 years. Betty enjoys coming to church and listening to Pastor Tom's sermons. Betty also enjoys meeting and greeting others in church.

In 1994 Betty found out she had Parkinsons after experiencing various symptoms. In 2000 Betty had Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery which helped some but was not perfect. As Betty battled with her Parkinsons, she also has undergone 4 knee surgeries and had a broken lower leg. Through it all Betty is grateful for family and friends who have been supportive and for the love of the members of OSH.



Message from Susan Kahl

The INN was founded in 1983 in Hempstead. Currently they oversee 14 soup kitchens in 21 locations and operate three emergency shelters for the homeless. It is a misconception to think that there are very few hungry and homeless people in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Approximately 5,000 meals are served weekly across Long Island, with 500 served daily at the Mary Brennan INN headquarters. The food is prepared and served by volunteers. It is acquired through donations and the support of Long Island Cares and Island Harvest.

The Patchogue Neighbor's INN is a consortium of five soup kitchens in the Patchogue, East Patchogue and Bellport area. Guests may receive a meal at these locations:

Sunday	4:00PM	Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Monday	12:00PM	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Tuesday	6:00PM	St. Joseph the Worker
Wednesday	5:00PM	Congregational Church
Saturday	9:00AM	St. Francis de Sales

Fund raisers and donations are the sole revenue for these soup kitchens. The following fund raisers will be exclusively for The Patchogue Neighbor's INN:

* November 20th "Plaza Suite" Clare Rose Playhouse - \$20.00.

7:00pm Wine and Cheese 8:00pm Show time. Call Sue for tickets (286-6335).

*December 12th Sing-a-Long. Patchogue Theater Community.

7:00pm. Call Theater for tickets (207-1313).

Your contributions to Old South Haven Church help to support Patchogue Neighbors INN through our Local Mission Program.

PORTRAIT OF A PEOPLE

We are thrilled to announce that Daryl Jordan, in celebration of Black History Month, will present her program "Portrait of a People" on a Saturday in February. (Date still to be determined.) This is a program we had hoped to offer last year and were not able to do so. The program is a solo recital of poetry and song by African American poets and composers. We are certainly grateful to Daryl for rescheduling this event for us.



OPERA AND MORE

The South Country Education Fund's Becker/Gables Music Fund Committee has announced it will schedule "Opera and More" on Saturday, May 16. The program will be announced in the spring.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Sandy Asselta Organist/Choir Director

It was my pleasure to serve as Old South Haven's interim organist and choir director earlier this year. When offered the permanent position, I knew I was right at home by the warm reception given to my husband, Ken and myself by members and friends of this congregation. For that we thank all of you!



I have found a wonderful group of dedicated choir members, as well as opportunities for bringing in special music, vocal and instrumental. Old South Haven may not be the largest church I've served, but in my experience it has the largest appreciation for and utilization of the gift of musical talent and expression. Thank you, Pastor Tom, for your dedication in this regard!

Seasons of Advent and Christmas are quickly approaching. Your choir is preparing what promises to be performances of musical offerings to help us focus on the anticipation and glory of the birth of our Lord. During the upcoming season Old South Haven welcomes three special guests. On Sunday, December 7th, we will be treated to a solo piano performance by Claudia Taylor's granddaughter, Annika Lorin Johnson. Annika is a Junior at Bellport HS and whose talent we enjoyed earlier in the year as well. On Christmas Eve we will have the joy of Daryl Jordan beautiful voice and privileged once again to listen to Joe Porcelli, accomplished trumpeter.

Please plan on joining us, whether it be in the congregation or in our choir, or as instrumentalist – the welcome is from our hearts, and open to all.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY OF THE MORICHES

...welcomes you to our 78th season of presenting G.F. Handel's "The Messiah". This tradition began in 1937 when the Choral Society was founded and performed its first concert of "The Messiah" in the Presbyterian Church of the Moriches – 78 years ago! This season's concert at PCM is scheduled for **Sunday, December 21** at 3:00 pm. It is astonishing that Handel began composing this oratorio on August 22, 1741, and completed it in only twenty-four days, remarking emotionally of those 24 days, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the Great God himself." We invite you to experience for yourself the telling of the prophecy of Christ's coming: His birth, life, death and resurrection expressed beautifully by a magnificent chorus, orchestra and fine soloists. Please visit www.moricheschoral.org for further information and to purchase tickets in advance of any concert. We look forward to continuing the tradition of sharing with you the gift of God's love in musical performance this Christmas season!

Sandy Asselta (pearldq@gmail.com / 631-879-8861). Purchase of ticket through a Choral Society member is \$10 pre-concert (a \$5 savings). Valid for any of the three performances.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

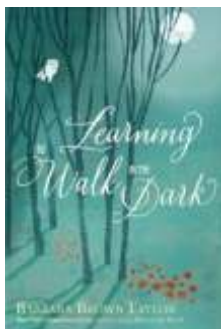
On **Sunday, Nov. 23** at 4:00pm a Thanksgiving Service led by clergy of Bellport and Brookhaven will be hosted by Rev. Gennaro DiSpigno, and held at Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church in Bellport. The



Preacher will be The Very Rev. John E. Walker, Christ Episcopal Church in Bellport. Other clergy participating are: The Rev. Hickman Alexandre, St. James Episcopal Church, Brookhaven, Rev. Yuri Ando, Bellport United Methodist Church, and Rev. Thomas J. Philipp, Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, Brookhaven. A choir with members from participating congregations will sing.

BOOK STUDY

On **Sunday, Nov. 30** at 4:00pm there will be the opportunity to discuss the book "Learning to walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor. The author writes: "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me – either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out." The book has the author take us on a journey to understand darkness, how to find God even in darkness, and letting darkness teach us what we need to know. Jason Neal has ordered copies of the book for those wishing to read and discuss it.



Welcoming Refugee Children: A Call for Compassion

The organization Long Island Jobs with Justice is holding a Labor-Faith Prayer Breakfast on **Tuesday, December 9th** from 10:00am to 12pm at Mercy First, 525 Convent Road, Syosset, NY at which Mercy First will be honored.

Mercy First, founded as an orphanage by the Sisters of Mercy in 1894, house and assists abused and neglected children. They serve more than 3,200 children and their families in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island. Here on Long Island they have opened their doors and provided care to many refugee immigrant children fleeing from harm. \$25 registration. RSVP with Kimberly Saget at 631 348 1170, ext. 317. More about Long Island Jobs with Justice at <http://longislandjwi.org/>.

MORNING WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

November - December, 2014

Date	Greeter	Leader	Fellowship
Nov 2	K. Tilney	F. Decker	Laface/Scott
Nov 9	S. Moran	C. Taylor	Hall/Mayo
Nov 16	L. Gallo	B. Mullahy	Moran/Jason Neal
Nov 23	E. Fuka	S. Moran	Bird/Corwin
Nov 30	Joann Neal	J. Barry	Fuka/Tilney
Dec 7	K. Tilney	A. Stevens	Barry/Best
Dec 14	J/K Barry	D. Mayo	A&D Stevens
Dec 21	J. Bird	L. Majowka	Burgess/Gallo
Xmas Eve			
12/24	Neal Family		R. Thomas
12/28	E. Fuka	Jason Neal	Frankie/Majowka



Toy Collection

The mission of Thursday's Child of Patchogue 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 is one of the ongoing local missions projects of Old South Haven Church.

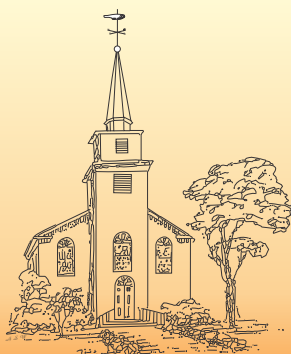
This year Old South Haven Church is participating in Thursday's Child's Christmas / Holiday Gift Program. We are collecting toys to be distributed to children all over Long Island. Last year this program provided gifts for 425 children. Don't forget older children as well as youngsters. A large box has been placed in the Gallery (the room behind the church) for your donation. All donations must be received by **Sunday, December 14th**.

More about Thursday's Child may be found at: <http://www.thursdayschildofli.org/>.

Your contributions to Old South Haven Church help to support Thursday's Child through our Local Mission program

ADVENT PROGRAMS

As we went to press, the Advent Schedule became available and was published in the church's weekly email. If you do not receive this email, it is available at: <http://oldsouthhavenpresbyterianchurch.blogspot.com/>. If you would like to receive the church's weekly emails, send an email to Reporter@OldSouthHavenChurch.org



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

Rev. Thomas J. Philipp, Minister
Sandy Asselta, organist & choir director

South Country and Beavertdam Roads
(Mail: PO Box 203)

Brookhaven, New York 11719
Telephone: 631-286-0542

Email: ContactUs@OldSouthHavenChurch.org

Web: <http://OldSouthHavenChurch.org>

Newsletter editor: Linda Scott, 631-286-2003

© The Session of the Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

