

*Pastor's Corner:*

## **The China Buffet and the Book Cases**

**Pastor Tom Philipp**



Though spring has not yet arrived, some of us have begun spring cleaning. One ritual I go through around this time of the year is to wash every piece of crystal and china in my buffet (I don't expect Ilene to do this). Through the year these items get coated with a layer of grime, easily removed with soap and water. Once the project is completed I enjoy standing back and marveling at the beauty of these pieces I treasure.

As some of you know there are two items I have accumulated over the years that I consider prize possessions. One is the many, many books that I own, some dating back to the early 1800's. The other prize possession is my collection of crystal and cut glass. One large vase belonged to my great grandmother, other pieces have been gifts or purchases through the years. Every time I perform this cleaning ritual I say to myself that I must use these items instead of just letting them sit there collecting dust (I get the message from my book cases as well: "Take me off the shelf and read me, that's the purpose I serve.") Unused treasures, whether on a bookshelf or in a china buffet.

Wouldn't you know, your Pastor sees a parable in all this! We have entered the season of Lent. It is a season for self-examination and renewal. It is a time to acknowledge how well we are doing as we make our pilgrimage through life and where improvements can be made. I feel it is a time to ask how well we are using the precious treasures that are ours, not just treasures to be found on book shelves and in china buffets, but the treasures that are ours in terms of the God given gifts that are ours.

Do I dare ask how often we simply dust off our treasures to acknowledge their presence, but we do not really use them? Do I dare ask how often their beauty and their usefulness is not shared with others? Let Lent not be withdrawing but outpouring.

Now let me get back to washing that crystal and china, and then maybe even read that book which just sits there on the shelf asking to be read!

## **New Pulpit Handrails Installed**

**Richard Thomas**

New handrails were added to the stairs at either side of the pulpit this month. This is the first major alteration of the interior of the church since the removal of the front of the center



pews in 1999. Before the South Haven meeting house was moved to Brookhaven on December 28, 1960, not many used the steps up to the pulpit platform, as there were no doors at that end of the building. The "robing room" (now called the "Gallery") was added in 1961 and two doors were cut through into the main building.

Since its construction in 1828, there have been a number of major modifications of the interior of the meeting house. When initially erected, the interior followed the "reverse floor plan" that was popular for churches in rural areas of the northeast in the early nineteenth century. There was originally a high pulpit at the entrance-end of the meeting house, and worshippers entered through doors on either side of the pulpit. There was no balcony, nor was there a steeple and spire.

On August 19, 1861, Henry W. Titus, a wealthy director of the Long Island Rail Road who had an estate in Bellport, presented a "Plan for the Alteration of the Pews, Pulpit etc." The



Building Committee of the trustees made Mr. Titus, the "foreman for the Repairs of the House." The pulpit was moved to its current location, the pews were turned around, and a balcony was added.

The 1861 "new" pulpit was not the pulpit we have

## APPORTIONMENT/PER CAPITA

### John Deitz, Financial Secretary

In this Newsletter issue I am responding to requests to explain “apportionment” giving, also known as “per capita” – the amount contributed to higher judicatories (Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly) by every individual Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation. It can be thought of as our membership “dues” to belong to the interconnected Presbyterian Church denomination – a theologically based system of caring for one another from church to church and region to region.



Per Capita/Apportionment: for 2015 for our church is \$30.83 per member. Every one of our active church members – each spouse, partner, and every confirmed child in every family – is assessed \$30.83. Our Session then pays the aggregate amount of our congregants' per capita to the Presbytery. In January, the Treasurer made a payment of \$1,510.67 (49 members) to the Long Island Presbytery. The Presbytery uses the apportionment to cover its operating costs. Of the total apportionment payments received by Presbytery, 72% is spent here on Long Island to keep our local Presbytery functioning – primarily for Presbytery staff salaries, building heat and lighting, and administration. The Presbytery pays a portion of the apportionment to our regional ruling body, the Synod of the Northeast (4%), and our national ruling body the General Assembly (24%). While some members of the congregation make a separate contribution of their apportionment assessment (\$30.83) to the church over and above their regular giving, it is the aggregate “per capita” that is paid to Presbytery.

What we get back: an interconnected church organization – help when we need it. In return for the per capita amount we pay to the Presbytery of Long Island, the Presbytery takes care of us, together with all the other churches on Long Island, through shared resources: people, materials, knowledge, fellowship, and financial aid, when needed. The Presbytery communicates with all the churches, keeping everyone on the same page. Per capita “is the glue that holds Presbyterians together.” It is a payment that permits all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church. We function interdependently, and, thus, share our costs and our resources. This is part of being a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

*This article is based in part on an article that appeared in the Smithtown Presbyterian Church weekly news*



## PROPERTY AND FINANCE

### Kappy Tilney, Chair

The committee (members: John Deitz, Financial Secretary; Sean Moran, Tom Philipp, Richard Thomas, Treasurer; and Kappy Tilney) meets on a monthly basis for the purpose of advising the Session on any property or finance issues. During 2014, general maintenance of the property and buildings continued and no major property issues arose.

As reported at the annual meeting, the congregation ended 2014 with a positive income over expenses balance of about \$7,800, largely due to the

## REPORT OF THE CLERK

### Sean Moran, Clerk

The Congregation of Old Southaven Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, January 25, 2015 for our Annual Congregational Meeting. We had a quorum present with 7 guests. Rev. Philipp opened the meeting with prayer and reflection and gave a review of 2014 as our pastor. Tom will be celebrating his 9th year with us as pastor. He continues his ministry with us both within the walls of Old South Haven and within the greater Brookhaven, Bellport, East Patchogue community.



We lost three members in 2014. Dr. Albert Stahman passed away on June 10, 2014, Elizabeth (Betty) Gardner on October 10, 2014, and Ann Wiswall on December 17, 2014. This brings our active membership at Old South Haven to 46 at the end of the year. On January 5, 2015, Dory Tooker passed away, which brings our active membership to 45. We mourn the loss of these wonderful people and remember the contributions each made to Old South Haven Church. Elizabeth Gardner as past Clerk of Session, organist, elder; Ann Wiswall as elder, deacon, past chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and member of the Fellowship Committee who would call to remind us of our assignments on Sunday; Dory Tooker we remember for her past work as elder, and co-coordinator of the spring and fall yard sales. Dory and I also share another bond as having family members who were members of the FDNY. Dr. Stahman for his attendance and support of Old South Haven. We will continue to remember those who we have lost within a short period of time.

The Session expresses thanks to Elder Nancy Best for her 6 years of service. Elder Best was instrumental in coordinating with Bellport High School our yearly Peace Essay Contest and working with Elder John Deitz on our Stewardship Campaign. Nancy also types the bulletins every week for Sunday Service. Thank you Nancy for all your years of service and know you will make a great Deacon.

The Session welcomes Elder Linda Majowka and looks forward to working with her in the future. Linda Scott and Jason Neal have been reinstated for a second term.

Our session continues to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month unless there is a holiday or special event that prevents us from meeting. If you have a concern regarding Old South Haven, please let an Elder know. Their names are listed on the back of the bulletin.

Please continue to bring can goods for our friends at St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry in East Patchogue. Even though the economy may be recovering, there are many still in need of basic staples.



generous giving of members of the congregation, and somewhat lower operating expenses. The 2015 budget approved by the Session anticipates a negative balance, largely due to the death of two major contributors to the church, and anticipated higher costs.

Copies of the Income & Expense, and Balance Sheet Financial Reports are available in Information rack found in the Vestibule.

## PORTRAIT OF A PEOPLE

Saturday, February 21, 2015

3:00 PM

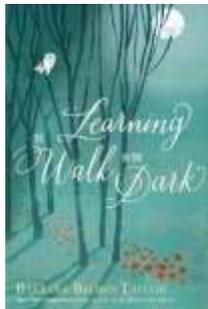
In our next Music Series program we are proud to present Daryl Jordan, soprano, in her solo recital "Portrait of a People". This recital has been reviewed as "a unique portrayal of the African-American in poetry and song."



Daryl Jordan's many solo performances include concerts with the Long Island Philharmonic, and recitals at colleges and universities. This program has been presented at Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor and at Leanna Hall at the famed NY State Chautauqua Institution. The summer of the Chautauqua recital a college student studying music and drama was awarded a scholarship in her name.

## BOOK STUDY

On Sunday, March 15 at 4:00pm there will be the opportunity to discuss the book "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor. This program had been scheduled for last November but had to be postponed. 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".



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Rachel Philipp Vione, niece of Pastor Tom.

Rachel will be ordained a Presbyterian minister at 4:00pm at First Presbyterian Church of Northport. She will become the Assistant Minister of that Congregation.

## New Pulpit Railings, continued from page 1

today. The steps were winding and went up to a trapezoidal platform, as shown in the photo.

Rev. George Borthwick succeeded in having the interior of the church "restored" to a more colonial look in 1938. The winding steps were removed and replaced with straight steps, and a new pulpit with side panels, the one still in use today, was purchased from a church furniture company in Waukesha, Wisconsin, for \$750. The "Victorian brown" walls and the unpainted pews were painted white and light cream. The choir platform and its curtains were removed. "Hidden" lighting was placed in the ceiling, and the church then took on an appearance much like it has today. (The James H. Post memorial chandelier was added in 1961. The Rev. Charles Kellogg memorial cross was added in 1977.)

## DEACON'S ANNUAL REPORT

**Judi Bird, Chair**

On March 18, 2014, the Deacons along with Pastor Philipp held their annual meeting to discuss their priorities for the 2014 year. Pot luck suppers were held on April 27 and September 28 with guests in attendance from Thursday's Child and the Patchogue Neighbor's INN. In addition, a church picnic was held on June 22. The Deacons assisted with the church yard sale on May 24.

Cards and flowers have been sent for get-well, birthday and sympathy occasions. The Deacons hosted a reception for those attending the memorial service for Betty Gardner on November 1 and for Ann Wiswall on January 31 with members of the congregation volunteering to provide baked goods and flowers.

The donation from the Deacons for Thanksgiving went to Long Island Cares. The Christmas donation went to Thursday's Child.

The committee would like to thank the members of the congregation and friends of the church for their support through generous donations.



## Thank you from St. Joseph the Worker Church Parish Social Ministry

Dear Pastor Philipp,

Thank you for your generous food donations. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Our pantry guests last year numbered over 4,000 community members of which over 50% were children.

This year reflects similar numbers, but our pantry guests include a much broader community member... maybe a co-worker, neighbor, or family member seeking help for the first time. Our pantry door is always open and our shelves have never been empty. Thank you on behalf of everyone who walks through our door asking for help.

May your good works continue to bless our community.

With much gratitude,  
Alma Alegria

## FELLOWSHIP

**Kappy Tilney**

During 2014, the committee hosted three receptions following the music series concerts.

This time of conversation provides a wonderful opportunity to meet the performers, hear about the performances from their perspective, and express our appreciation.

## LENT AND EASTER SCHEDULE

### Ash Wednesday February 18

12 noon Informal Service: Imposition of Ashes  
 7:00pm Evening Service: Imposition of Ashes.  
 The United Methodist Church of Bellport joins us.  
 Pastor Yuri Ando, Liturgist, Pastor Tom Philipp,  
 Preacher

### Palm Sunday March 29

10:00am  
 Sermon: "Becoming a Part of the Crowd"  
 Lessons: Isaiah 50: 4-9 Matthew 21: 1-11

### Maundy Thursday April 2

7:00pm Observance of a Seder Meal and The Last Supper. This will take place in the Gallery.

### Good Friday April 3

3:00pm Stations of the Cross  
 We join with members of St. James Episcopal Church walking from their Church to ours along Beaver Dam Road.  
 7:00pm We join The United Methodist Church of Bellport in a Tenebrae Service.  
 Pastor Tom Philipp, Liturgist,  
 Pastor Yuri Ando, Preacher

### Easter Sunday April 5

6:00am Easter Sunrise Service - Bellport Dock  
 Service led by clergy of Brookhaven, Bellport and surrounding area.  
 10:00am EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE  
 Sermon: "Easter Conviction"  
 Lessons: Mark 16: 1-8 I Corinthians 15 1-11  
 Special music and Joseph Porcelli on the trumpet

## MORNING WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	GREETER	LAY READER	COFFEE HOUR
Jan 4	K. Tilney	B. Mullahy	Hall/Mayo
Jan 11	S. Moran	C. Taylor	Neal/Unny
Jan 18	I. Stahman	S. Moran	Fuka/Tilney
Jan 25	Joann Neal	J. Barry	Moran/Neal
Feb 1	K. Tilney	Jason Neal	Burgess/Gallo
Feb 8	J/K Barry	Joann Neal	Frankie/Majowka
Feb 15	L. Gallo	A. Stevens	A & D Stevens
Feb 22	M. Unny	D. Mayo	Brown/Barry
Mar 1	K. Tilney	F. Decker	Laface/Scott
Mar 8	S. Moran	L. Majowka	Best/Bird
Mar 15	I. Stahman	K. Barry	Hall/Mayo
Mar 22	Jason Neal	L. Scott	Neal/Unny
Mar 29	E. Fuka	B. Mullahy	Fuka/Tilney
EASTER/			
Apr 5	L. Gallo	C. Taylor	R. Thomas
Apr 12	J/K Barry	S. Moran	Brown/Barry
Apr 19	L. Gallo	J. Barry	A & D Stevens
Apr 26	M. Unny	D. Mayo	Moran/Neal
May 3	K. Tilney	Jason Neal	Burgess/Gallo
May 10	S. Moran	Joann Neal	Frankie/Majowka
May 17	I. Stahman	F. Decker	Laface/Scott
May 24	Joann Neal	L. Majowka	Best/Bird
May 31	E. Fuka	L. Scott	Hall/Mayo
June 7	K. Tilney	K. Barry	Neal/Unny
June 14	J/K Barry	C. Taylor	Fuka/Tilney
June 21	L. Gallo	B. Mullahy	Moran/Neal
June 28	M. Unny	D. Mayo	Brown/Barry

## Hello All at Old South Haven Church—

This is to say a profound thank you for the unforgettable hospitality and love you have given us and our daughter Pania. It comforts us that she is supported by her wonderful US family and also OSH Church.

Most impressive was the inclusiveness and progressiveness we found. Through the Church network we experienced some wonderful African American culture and also great musical events.

We go back (now having a look around the UK enroute) with some good stories and ideas for our home church in Kalamunda, near Perth Western Australia.

In God's love,  
 Ben and Ima Rose

**Editors Note: Ben and Ima were regular visitors late 2014 and early 2015.**

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

The OGHs Offering is one of three special offerings we support each year. The other two are the Peacemaking Offering and the Christmas Offering.

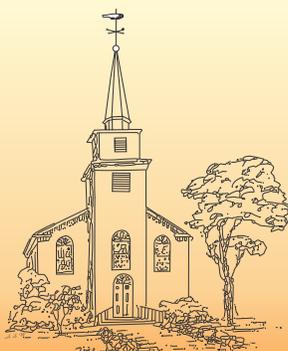
*This offering underwrites three of our denomination's programs:*

\* Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (this program responded immediately to the devastation on Long Island by Hurricane Sandy and the fire at our Yaphank Church)

\* Presbyterian Hunger program

\* Self Development of People

Envelopes will be available on both Palm Sunday and Easter.



## Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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