

## Pastor's Corner:

### The Line and the Circle

#### Pastor Tom Philipp



As a small child I learned to make two figures: a line and a circle. I would learn in time that all other figures are derivatives of these two basic figures. Later I came to realize how these two figures took on symbolic meaning. A line was used to indicate forward or backward; the circle came to symbolize no change, progress or regress. "Going around in circles" meant getting nowhere; it meant routine (which seemed to imply boredom as well). The circle had another meaning, however, and a very significant one: it meant eternal, having no beginning or ending. The circle became a symbol for God.

Later, as I became a history major in college, I studied philosophies of history; and came to realize that basically there are two viewpoints regarding history: the linear and the circular. The one implied that history was a constant unfolding of the new. History was going somewhere; it was taking one forward into new adventures, new challenges, new crises, victories and defeats. The other school of history would argue that history moves in a circle, always repeating itself; that there is really nothing new "under the sun" because violence continues, wars continue, "all is vanity". The circular viewpoint is pessimistic; the linear view is optimistic. This linear view is open to possibilities for the future, both successes and failures.

I have the two figures in mind as we get ready to launch another September in the life of Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. How do I look at that? How do you look at that? How do we together look at that? Will it be another lap around the circle, covering the same familiar ground once again, quite comfortable, but nothing new? Or will it be stretching along a line into a future, that line not yet drawn, that future quite unknown. Risky, yes! Uncomfortable, yes! Quite challenging, yes!

I don't want to take just another lap around the track familiar to us. Instead, let us go forward into a way not yet known, with compass in hand, but no map. I want to be as Abraham and Sarah, going forward, not knowing where we are going but with the promise: "Lo, I am with you always."

PS. Our Session will be going on a one day retreat in October thinking at length about our future. It is my belief the Session is committed to a 'line' and not a 'circle'.

## A Member's Reflection

### Janet Barry



I am so thankful to my parents, Alan and Catherine Thomson, for raising me Presbyterian. I grew up in Wantagh, and attended the Bellmore Presbyterian Church. Ahh, the memories! Rolls and butter, German jelly doughnuts from the bakery was the Sunday morning ritual before heading out to church.

Being part of the baby boomers, the Sunday school spilled out into several buildings. Great memories! Church picnics, coffee hour, Easter, Christmas. Reverend Rambo and friends. My parent's involvement in The Mr. and Mrs. Club! Photos of my grandmother Jessie Thomson putting one of the first shovels into the ground, for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new church building that she worked so hard on to raise money. I was in the cherub choir!

As an adult I tried other churches, but the journey lead me back to my roots once I had a child of my own, Kevin Alan Barry. The love of my heart and soul. He was diagnosed in 2nd grade with Asperger's syndrome, a form of high functioning autism. He had areas of special interests that he would 'hyper focus' on. One of them was Bach and PIPE ORGANS! (He would go on and on about them). Every Saturday we would go to the library to look at and photo copy pictures of PIPE ORGANS! Finally one day the librarian told us about a PIPE ORGAN in a church in Brookhaven, Old South Haven! So off we went. We were greeted so warmly by everyone. The organist gave Kevin a tour of the organ, even showing him the inner workings. I wanted to raise my child in the Presbyterian Church also, and so here is where we landed! I am so grateful!

I signed the guest book that day many years ago. I gently 'dogged eared' that page, and sneak a peek at it, especially when I am the greeter.



## Peace Essay Contest

This year's Peace Essay Contest winner was Anika Loren Johnson awarded on Sunday June 14, 2015. Pictured are her grandmother Claudia Taylor, Anika Johnsen, Linda Majowka, committee chair, and Pastor Tom Philipp.



## Clerk of Session

### Sean Moran

The session continues to meet on the third Monday of the month. We meet to review and discuss business of Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. Session member's names and phone numbers can be found on the back of the bulletin. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is an issue you feel Session needs to be addressing.



We received our minutes back for 2014 with no exceptions. It makes me extremely happy. The session has been focusing on the issue of repaving the driveway and parking lot which is being addressed by the Property and Finance committee, as well as the newly established Capital Campaign Committee. The committee is undertaking different options to reach out for donations.

Session members are assigned to chair and co-chair various committees:

- Kappy Tilney - Property and Finance, Use of Carriage House and Fellowship
- Jason Neal - Christian Education, Fund Raising (assisting)
- Linda Majowka - Social Education and Action, Stewardship/Fund Raising
- Deborah Mayo - Worship, Fellowship (assisting)
- Linda Scott - Mission and Outreach, Newsletter Editor
- Brian Mullahy - Mission and Outreach, Social Education and Action (assisting both)
- Sean Moran - Personnel Committee, Clerk of Session

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for our friends at St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry. Your donations can be placed in the basket located in the Narthex.

On September 6, 2015 the annual 9/11 Walk of Remembrance will take place in New York City from St. Francis Assisi Roman Catholic Church at 135 W. 31st St. between 6th and 7th Avenue along 7th Avenue. The Walk will end at the World Trade Center / St. Peter's Church vicinity. The day starts off with a Mass of Remembrance at St. Francis at 9:30 AM and the walk follows at 10:30 AM. It retraces the path taken by Fr. Mychal Judge stopping at various locations on the way to the World Trade Center area. For more information go to 9/11 WalkOfRemembrance.com.



## Christian Education

### Jason Neal, Chair

Sunday school will begin in October, giving parents an opportunity to get the children settled in academic classes. Sunday school will be held two weeks a month, weeks to be determined.

Adult Education is under discussion for the 2015/2016 fall and winter season, as well as fellowship movie nights.

## Music Department

### Sandy Asselta Organist/Choir Director

It seems so amazing how quickly time passes when we are having fun, as the saying goes. I trust all have had fun and enjoyed this summer. Now we are looking forward to cooler weather and a new season of music at Old South Haven.



And YES, we in the choir and instrumentalists do have fun as we prepare music for worship on Sunday mornings (love to have you come and see for yourselves!). As the fall of 2015 approaches, we would like to encourage the return of all our musicians and invite new folks to join us. We anticipate adding more variety to our music, as well as a few different instruments on occasion. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome to continue to bring blessing to our congregation's worship experience.



## Worship

### Deborah Mayo, Chair

The worship committee is pleased to announce that in October we will introduce a monthly Vespers service at Old South Haven. We are hoping that this gathering will be a quiet time for reflection, prayer and personal spiritual renewal. The actual format of the service is still being planned.



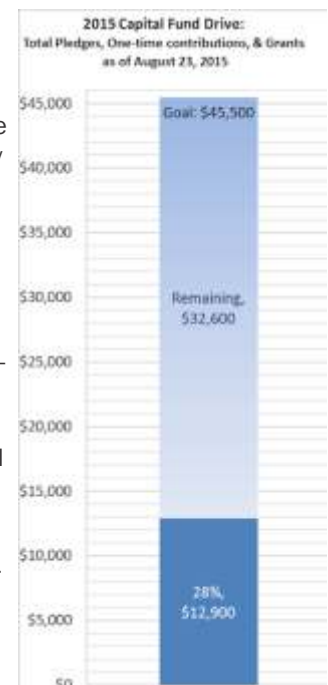
Pastor Tom and Worship Committee chair, Deb Mayo, welcome any suggestions you may have. The first Vespers will be held in the sanctuary at 5:00pm on October 25th. All members and friends of this church are welcome to join in what we hope will be a nourishing, meditative time together.



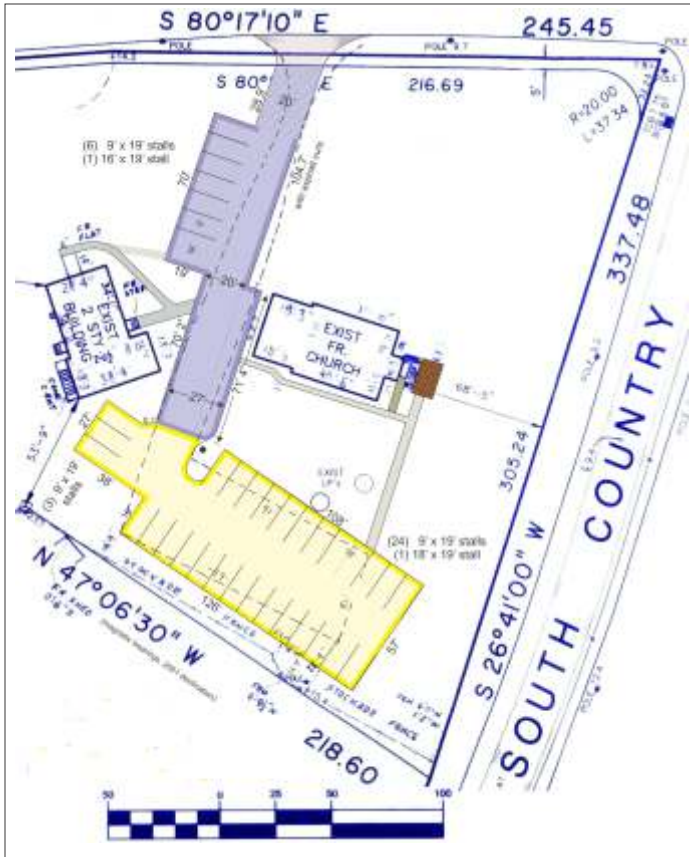
## Property & Finance Committee

The Property & Finance Committee members are Kappy Tilney, Chair; Richard Thomas, Church Treasurer; John Deitz, Financial Secretary; Sean Moran, Clerk; and Pastor Tom Philipp. The committee reports to the Session and is responsible for maintaining day-to-day oversight of the church's campus and finances.

In addition to the usual maintenance issues, the committee this year developed the specifications and cost estimates for the new railing for the pulpit stairs and for the parking lot and driveway repairs.



## Project Includes:



### 1. YELLOW PART - PARKING LOT

Widen lot from 41 feet to 57 feet

- Add three new parking spaces at west end (on the southerly side of the Carriage House).
- Add four new parking spaces at the east end (two each side).
- New dry well at east end for drainage.
- New Paving for a short 20-ft. wide portion of the "driveway" between the large lot and the new stalls at west end.
- Existing paving removed, new 5-inch base and 2-inch asphalt installed.
- All stalls striped.

The existing lot accommodates about 20 cars plus one handicapped spot.

The new lot contains 27 standard stalls, plus one handicapped stall.

### 2. BLUE (PURPLE) PART - DRIVEWAY

- Increase width of driveway between church and carriage house to 27 feet to allow parallel parking on church side (~3 cars).
- Increase remainder of driveway to a width of 20 feet.
- Add 6 new standard parking stalls and one handicapped stall west of the driveway before the Carriage House.
- Existing paving removed, new 5-inch base and 2-inch asphalt installed.
- All stalls striped.
- Pole light installed near Beaver Dam Road to mark entrance.

## 2015 Capital Fund Campaign

### Parking Lot, Driveway, Lamppost

**Nancy Best, Campaign Chair**

As Pastor Tom told the congregation a few weeks ago, our Session has approved having a Capital Fund Campaign to finance repairing our parking lot and driveway. A committee was appointed, and that committee, Nancy Best, Pastor Tom, John Deitz, Elizabeth Fuka, and Irene Stahman have met three times, with regular additional meetings planned.

The proposed plans look great—the parking lot will be completely rebuilt - enlarged and repaved - and the driveway will also be widened and room made for parking stalls off the driveway. It will actually almost double the number of spaces we have now - from 20 to 38. There will also be a much needed lamppost installed at the end of the driveway.

All this, of course, means we'll need money - an estimate of \$45,500 has been given, with the parking lot, estimated at \$26,000 and the driveway, estimated at \$17,000. The estimate for the lamppost is \$2,400, which has already been covered by a donation.

At the current time we have enough money to get started, but that money will need to be replaced as soon as possible. I'm happy to announce that our Campaign has been kicked off by Pastor Tom, who has already given his donation. In addition, several members of the committee and congregation have also given donations, giving us a total of \$12,900 (as of August 15, 2015) to get us started - which is just great!

We would ask that those of you who would like to and are able to make their donation now, it would be very helpful. In addition, we will have a pledge campaign and anyone who would rather give their donation over a period of time will be able to do so. Please know that a pledge is not a legal obligation, but it will be helpful for our planning, and all donations will be very gratefully received!

We also talked about appealing to others who have a connection to the church or community who might like to help, but we haven't decided just how we'll do that yet. We are planning to put up a chart or poster of some sort in the Carriage House as there may be people who use it (and the parking lot!) who will want to help too.

The committee will be regularly meeting, and I will keep you all apprised of developments.



The existing driveway officially accommodates 0 cars, although presently cars park helter-skelter.

The new driveway area contains 6 standard stalls, plus one handicapped stall, plus ~3 parallel parking spots near the church.

Part 1 (Yellow Part) is currently scheduled to start sometime in mid-October. Work will start on a Monday and take five days, during which the parking lot will be unavailable.

Part 2 (Blue Part) has not been scheduled and will depend on the success of the Capital Campaign.



## Rev. Tom Goodhue, Speaker at Church Supper, September 13

On Sunday, September 13 at 5:30pm we will have a church supper. Rev. Tom Goodhue, Executive Director of the Long Island Council of Churches will be our guest and speaker. We have been following a practice of inviting representatives of mission programs we support financially to be present and share the work of their organization. The Council helps diverse Christians work together to serve neighbors in need and to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation. Rev. Goodhue is an ordained United Methodist minister.



Pastor Tom serves as the Chair of the Council's Personnel Committee. The Council has three primary locations: Hempstead, Freeport, and Riverhead.



## Maria and Dimitrie Return

At the reception following Maria D'Amato and Dimitrie Lazich performance on June 7, 2014 the sentiment was unanimous: "they have to return." What a year it has been for these two marvelous singers. For Maria it was as a member of the Metropolitan Opera's chorus, including a solo in one of the productions. For Dimitrie it was engagements both in the United States and in Europe. They promised us they would return.



Then exactly one year from their recital at Old South Haven, they became husband and wife in a wedding in East Hampton. After their one month honeymoon they were ready to work out their commitment to return, once again with Daniel Ragone as their pianist.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, September 12 at 3:00pm \$25 donation.

The program will include opera and Broadway, as well as "Songs from Home" since it contains Italian, Slavic, and American songs which reflect the collective background of the three performers. In addition they will sing the number they sang at their wedding.

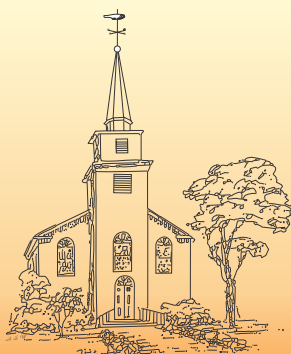
Let us welcome them back with a full house.

## MORNING WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	GREETER	LAY READER	COFFEE HOUR
Sept 6	K. Tilney	N. Best	Fuka/Tilney
Sept 13	S. Moran	K. Barry	Neal/Unny
Sept 20	Joann Neal	Janice Hofmann	Moran/Neal
Sept 27	J. Bird	A. Stevens	Hofmann/Stevens
Oct 4	K. Tilney	C. Taylor	Gallo/Heiligenstadt
Oct 11	J/K. Barry	F. Decker	Laface/Scott
Oct 18	L. Gallo	Joann Neal	Frankie/Kellogg/Majowka
Oct 25	M. Unny	S. Moran	Best/Bird
Nov 1	K. Tilney	J. Barry	Schuhmann/Taylor/Tilney
Nov 8	S. Moran	B. Mullahy	Barry/Brown
Nov 15	Joann Neal	D. Mayo	Moran/Neal
Nov 22	E. Fuka	Jason Neal	Hofmann/Stevens
Nov 29	J. Bird	N. Best	Neal/Unny
Dec 6	K. Tilney	K. Barry	Fuka/Tilney
Dec 13	J/K. Barry	L. Majowka	Moran/Neal
Dec 20	L. Gallo	K. Asselta	Best/Bird
XMAS EVE			
Dec 24	Neal Family	---	R. Thomas
Dec 27	M. Unny	F. Decker	Laface/Scott

## June 14th—OSH Annual Picnic!

Great company and food was enjoyed by all!!!



## Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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

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

Brookhaven, New York 11719

Telephone: 631-286-0542

Email: [ContactUs@OldSouthHavenChurch.org](mailto:ContactUs@OldSouthHavenChurch.org)

Web: <http://OldSouthHavenChurch.org>

Newsletter editor: Linda Scott, 631-286-2003

© The Session of the Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

