

Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Anchored in Christ's Love
2015 Winter

NEWS

Pastor's Corner:

A Great Time to Be Alive

Pastor Tom Philipp

I never had a great interest in Science when I was in high school or college. I loved History and Literature and Political Science much more than Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. (I apologize to the three men in our choir with their PhD's in Physics!) Though I still have the same priorities, nonetheless, I have found in recent years that advances in the Sciences and the questions and issues these advances raise, force me to pay attention to these advances because the questions and issues raised have ethical and religious implications.

On October 27 I attended the Annual Fall Luncheon of Planned Parenthood of Nassau County. Before coming to Brookhaven I served for twenty-five years on the Board of Directors of PPNC and at one time chaired its Ethics Committee. This year's luncheon featured as speaker Jonathan Eig bestselling author of "The Birth of the Pill." The "pill" gave women the ability to regulate and make choices as to when and under what conditions they would bring an offspring into this world. Mr. Eig's remarks caused me later that day to reflect on a three day seminar I had the opportunity to attend in Utah on behalf of PPNC in June 2003, titled "Critical Bio-ethical Issues in Reproductive Health for the 21st Century". The information presented by the scientists present was mind boggling, providing additional choices and opportunities. Now couples unable to conceive may consider artificial insemination. Now genetic testing can inform individuals whether a fetus is healthy. The bio-science that enabled genetic testing has made bone marrow transplants possible. Future possibilities could include so called "designer children" as well as cloning. With each of these advances in the bio-medical field comes also profound ethical and religious questions.

My definition of what it is to be a human being is that a human being is that member of the animal kingdom who has the ability to choose and then must bear responsibility for, and the consequences of, those choices. There is more opportunity today to be human than in any previous period of history. It is A Great Time to Be Alive for it is a time that gives us the opportunity to use our God given freedom to choose; it is a time to exercise our God given humanity.

The ethicists talk of the importance of balancing the needs of the individual against the needs of the greater society. For my part, I tend toward respecting an individual's capacities to make that calculation in the absence of coercion and in the possession of the relevant facts to decide for oneself. For if we change the world, it will be by millions of people deciding for themselves in the context of the greater society.

It is A Great Time to Be Alive!



REFLECTIONS

Caroline Hammell Asselta

It is a lovely spring morning as I drive along Yaphank Road on my way to work. A half hour ago, the sun had risen and turned the sky a pretty pink. My thoughts are on my laundry hanging on the line and I wonder if that pink sky is a sign of rain later in the day.

I smell the turning of fresh earth though my opened car window and as I round the bend in the road, I see the newly plowed field and my mind drifts back to a distant time.

"Little I am, perhaps 4 or 5. We are on a large field, this lady and I. I am holding onto her long black skirt with my right hand. She has on a white blouse with long sleeves and a big white apron. Hanging from her waist are long strings of brown twine all cut the same length.

I peek past her, never letting go of my grip on her skirt, and see several women and girls down on their haunches, pulling out red radishes from the long row. The field is tremendous and way down at the end of the row are men with crates, packing the radish bunches and piling the crates on the bed of an old truck. There's little talking as the ladies work. Only the occasional sound of the men as they count the crates.

I am a little cold, for it is damp from the morning dew and I edge closer to the lady to feel her warmth. Just then she draws a string from her waist and deftly bunches together 10 radishes, then drops the little bunches down on the ground.

I watched how fast her hands move. Bend, pick up and count, 5-6-10 radishes, pull the string round and round, tie and drop. Another bundle, another few cents. We move further down the line. The row seems to go on forever.

I want to go back to bed – but the lady says something I don't quite hear and everyone moves another few steps. My feet are cold. I have no shoes on. I stand one foot on top of the other to warm them. My dress is long but I cannot stand on the hem of my skirt. Maybe if I squat a little!! Just as I get the foot covered, we all move again. The sun is a little higher in the sky now, and you can see the fields are starting to dry. I shiver, and the lady puts her arm around me. I snuggle closer. She smells so nice, like fresh soap and radishes “.

Where was this place, I wonder? Try as I might, I never remember just where this is. Another time – another world perhaps? All too soon I arrive at my destination. Sadly I park my car. I hate to give up that beautiful memory. I can still smell the fresh earth and those wonderful radishes. I remember rubbing the dirt from the radish and not the flavor as I crunch it with my teeth. Never really got all the grains of sand off. "Never mind, can't hurt you", says the lady.

Bend, pick up, 8-9-10 round and round – drop, another few cents.

The cry of the bird in the distance slowly brings me back to now.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Judith Bird, Chair

The Deacons are pleased to report that a church directory including members and non-members has been compiled as of October 2015. The directory has been distributed in church; however, a mailing is also planned. If there are additions/corrections, an addendum will be printed. Thanks to John Deitz and Nancy Best for their help.



On Saturday, October 10, the Deacons participated in the church fair with yard sale and baked/food items for sale. A raffle for two mums was held with Darcy Stevens and Joann Neal

as the winners. The proceeds from the sale went to the 2015 Capital Fund Campaign.

A Thanksgiving potluck supper was held on Sunday, November 15. Pastor Tom spoke about his experience at Union Theological Seminary and read an inspiring letter from a student presently attending.

A Christmas Fair is planned for Saturday, December 12. The Deacons will be meeting to discuss the details. Proceeds will go to the 2015 Capital Fund.



Union Student “Speaks” to Us at Thanksgiving Potluck Supper

Suzanne Campise could not be with us but sent an email. She is in her first year at Union Theological Seminary and is interested in pursuing ordained ministry in the ELCA Lutheran Church. She attended Hunter college with a double major in Women and Gender Studies and Political Science. A few years later she became interested in food and the way it affects our bodies and souls. She pursued a Certification as a practitioner of Holistic Nutrition. “To me, spiritual food is just as important as physical nourishment.”

When she decided to attend seminary Union became her only choice. She said she knew some students from Union, “There was a certain quality about them: they were people who were spiritually grounded, their ideas were thought-provoking, and they took concrete steps to create a better world.” She speaks of Union with these words: “Union is a pretty amazing school, and I am so grateful to be here to take classes with professors who are leaders in their field. Academically, it has lived up to its reputation. It has been pretty cool to have discussions and worship alongside classmates from different denominations, religions and stages of life.” As she looks to her future she says: “I would



Music Department

Sandy Asselta Organist/Choir Director



Beautiful fall colors are all around us, as happens each year as summer changes to fall in preparation for winter. Admittedly, sometimes I wish I could just sit back and watch it all happen. But then I realize that without care, effort and dedication to my little piece of God's earth, I'd be very disappointed in the view outside my window. Similarly, the sounds of music we hear in our worship services at Old South Haven require care, effort and dedication as well. Over the last year our

choir has enjoyed not only a few new voices, but also renewed joy and laughter as we rehearse together. Those rehearsals are held in the choir loft at 9:30 am and following fellowship after worship each Sunday.

As the Advent and Christmas seasons come upon us, I again invite all to join as you feel able, even if participation is limited. We are not a "member only" choir; rather a "make a joyful noise" gathering of voices raised in praise to God. I look forward to a season of smiling faces, congregational singing, special instrumental offerings and most of all, a feeling of peace and goodwill.

I would like to share a portion of an article forwarded by an individual in our choir, with my thanks...

"When you sing, musical vibrations move through you, altering your physical and emotional landscape. Group singing, for those who have done it, is the most exhilarating and transformative of all. It takes something incredibly intimate, a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people and it comes back as something even more thrilling: harmony. Group singing has such a calming yet energizing effect on people. What researchers are beginning to discover is that singing is like an infusion of the perfect tranquilizer, the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirits. Study after study has found that singing relieves anxiety and contributes to quality of life. Group singing is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out. It is the one thing in life where feeling better is pretty much guaranteed. Even if you walked into rehearsal exhausted and depressed, by the end of the night you'll walk out high as a kite on endorphins and good will."

Come, participate, give it a try ... Old South Haven's Choir and congregation welcomes you!!



like to combine the sacred elements of food, faith, spirituality and community in a new way to help others connect to God and their own sense of purpose. I see these kinds of conversations, community building and meaning-making happening around the table, much like the one you are sharing together tonight. One day I see myself leading Dinner Churches around the country."

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

**Sunday, November 22 Thanksgiving
Sunday/Christ the King Sunday**

10:00am Morning Worship

Sermon: "Fruition"

4:00pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Old South Haven Church

Preacher: Rev. Hickman

Alexandre, St. James

Episcopal Church.

Ecumenical Choir:

Anthem: "Prayer of
Thanksgiving"



WINTER WORDS

JANUARY CONCERT

Old South Haven's next musical event will be on Saturday, January 16. The concert will feature Leslie Valentine, mezzo-soprano, and Christopher Reames, tenor.



Daniel Ragone serving again as artistic director and pianist. All three have appeared at our church previously and have been warmly received. The program is titled "Winter Words" the title of a

selection of songs by Benjamin Britten. The program is designed to lift us out of any January doldrums.



MORNING WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

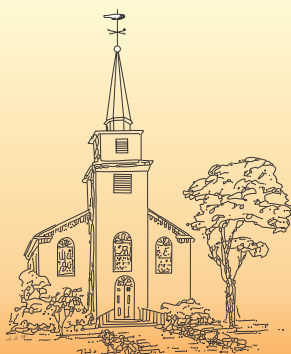
2016 MORNING WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS
JANUARY - MARCH

DATE	GREETER	LAY READER	COFFEE HOUR
Jan 3	K. Tilney	J. Barry	Hall/Mayo
Jan 10	S. Moran	Jason Neal	Schuhmann/Tilney
Jan 17	Joann Neal	B. Mullahy	Barry/Brown
Jan 24	J. Bird	N. Best	Fuka/Tilney
Jan 31	J/K Barry	K. Asselta	Hofmann/Stevens
Feb 7	K. Tilney	L. Majowka	Gallo/Heiligenstadt
Feb 14	E. Fuka	F. Decker	Laface/Scott
Feb 21	L. Gallo	S. Moran	Frankie/Majowka/Neal
Feb 28	M. Unny	D. Mayo	Best/Bird
Mar 6	K. Tilney	K. Barry	Moran/Neal
Mar 13	S. Moran	N. Best	Hall/Mayo
Mar 20	Joann Neal	A. Stevens	Schuhmann/Tilney
Mar 27/EASTER	J. Bird	J. Neal	R. Thomas

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Theme: The Active Verbs of Advent

- Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent
"Expecting"
Light the Candle of Hope
- Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent
"Waiting"
Light the Candle of Peace
- Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent
"Anticipating"
Light the Candle of Joy
- Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
"Receiving"
Light the Candle of Love
- Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Light the Christ Candle
Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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