

Pastor's Corner:

The Road of Lent

Pastor Tom Philipp



By the time you receive this issue of our quarterly "NEWS" we will be well on "The Road of Lent", culminating in Holy Week, and then the celebration of Easter. Roads mean much to me. That is inevitable given the amount of driving I do around Long Island. I delight when my destination can be reached by taking a parkway or expressway. They usually mean I will reach my destination in good time and the traveling will be fairly easy (unless, of course, there is a traffic build up). Other times my destination can be reached only by navigating the back roads and side streets, often encountering curves, dead ends, and unmarked avenues, demanding my patience, my fortitude, my determination, and sometimes in inquiring of a native or the consulting of a map. (No, I don't have a GPS which can't always be trusted anyway!)

Would that the Road of Lent were a six or eight lane expressway that brought us rapidly through the Valley we call Lent and Good Friday, and land us without any inconvenience at Easter's door step. Would that we could on Transfiguration Sunday with its mountain top experience, not only see the Promised Land, God's Kingdom, but see also the quickest way to get there.

Lent brings us back to reality. My first three sermons of Lent have sought to declare that reality: "Tempting Opportunity", "To Jerusalem" and "Life is not God". Lent reminds us of the times in our Christian journey when it is marked by curves and dips, even dead ends. Lent reminds us when the pathway is not clearly marked or illuminated, and we must inquire of others, consult the scriptural maps, and above all pray and trust and lean on the everlasting arms of God. As we read of our Lord's pilgrimage we marvel that he experienced the same. Often his prayers carried the desperate plea of asking God to both show the way and express God's will.

Easter is not Easter without the pilgrimage of Lent.



LENTEN JOURNEY

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10

Services were held at Bellport United Methodist Church

Sunday, Feb. 14 1st Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Tempting Opportunity"

Lessons: Deuteronomy 20: 1-11 Luke 4: 1-13

Sunday, Feb. 21 2nd Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "To Jerusalem"

Lessons: Philippians 3: 17-4:1 Luke 13: 31-35

Sunday, Feb. 28 3rd Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Life Is Not God"

Lessons: I Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9

Sunday, Mar. 6 4th Sunday of Lent

Sermon "The Mysterious Chemistry of Parental Love"

Lessons: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b -32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sunday, Mar. 13 5th Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "A Time for Unusual Acts"

Lessons: Isaiah 43: 16-21 John 12: 1-8

Sunday, Mar. 30 Palm Sunday

Sermon: "The Road to Jerusalem"

Lessons: Isaiah 50: 4-9a Mark 11: 1-10, 15-19

Thursday, Mar. 24 Maundy Thursday

7:00pm

A Seder and Holy Communion

Friday, Mar. 25 Good Friday

7:00pm

Tenebrae

Bellport United Methodist Church joins us Pastors Ando and Philipp leading the Service

Sunday, Mar. 27 EASTER

6:00am Sunrise Service at the Bellport Dock

10:00am Easter Service

Sermon "Beyond Damage Control"

Lessons: John 20: 1-18 Acts 10: 34-40



On February 21, 2016, officers were ordained and installed:

Rev. Thomas Philipp, Diane Hall ordained as an elder; Lorraine Gallo, deacon & Deborah Mayo, elder installed for a second term on the Session; Sean Moran, clerk.

**BOARD OF DEACONS
2015 Year End Report**

Judith Bird, Chair



- A Deacons' meeting was held on April 10, 2015 discussing assignments for deacons and upcoming events.
- The Deacons' follow-up meeting with the Session was held on June 15, 2015 where we discussed roles of the deacons, how we can reach out to the church community and community at-large.
- Pot luck dinners were held on March 15 and September 13 and guests were invited to speak at these events. Raffles added to the fun.
- Church picnic was held on June 14 with a newly purchased barbeque as a gift from a member of the congregation.
- Church fairs were held on May 23 and October 10 with deacons assisting in a yard sale, bake sale and raffle.
- Christmas boutique was held on December 12 in the Carriage House. Deacons held the fair with the assistance of other members of the congregation. The proceeds of the fair (approx. \$1,300) were donated to the 2015 Capital Fund for the paving of the parking lot and driveway.
- A donation was given to L.I. Cares for Thanksgiving and a donation was made to Thursday's Child for Christmas. In addition, an honorarium was given to each guest speaker at the pot luck dinners.
- A directory of church members and non-members was compiled in October with the assistance of John Deitz. It was distributed in church and also mailed to those who did not receive a copy in church. Plans are to update the directory as needed.
- Throughout the year cards were sent for get well, sympathy, birthday and new baby greetings to members of the congregation. Post cards were sent to visitors.
- Visitations were made to hospitals and rehabilitation facilities for those in the congregation who were ill or injured.
- Donations of food were delivered to the appropriate food pantry.

The Deacons feel that these activities are appreciated by the church community and community at-large. We have enjoyed organizing these activities and encourage suggestions for the next year.

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
2015 Year End Report**

Kappy Tilney, Chair

The committee continues to provide refreshments for any special church functions (i.e. the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on November 22, 2015).

The two concerts held respectively on February 21, 2015 and September 12, 2015 were followed by a reception in the Post Carriage House.

Committee Members: Deb Mayo and Kappy Tilney.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE
2015 Year End Report**

Deborah Mayo, Chair



The congregation met every Sunday of the year for morning worship. On the four occasions when Pastor Tom was not in the pulpit, we were blessed by the leadership and thoughtful messages delivered by three of our members: Linda Majowka, who preached in early March and on the Sunday before Christmas, Brian Mullahy and Claudia Taylor, who guided us in worship on the two Sundays in mid-July.

An Ash Wednesday service was held at our church this year; Pastor Tom was joined in the pulpit by Rev. Yuri Ando from The Bellport Methodist Church on that occasion.

A group of us celebrated a Seder in the gallery on Maundy Thursday. Our friend, Ilene Gelfer's presence at the table was much appreciated, especially when she helped with the reading of the Hebrew passages.

On the last Sunday in October we had our first Vespers service, a quiet, meditative time at the end of the day, the week and the month. We plan to practice our faith in this simple way, on the last Sunday of every month the coming year.

On Christmas Eve the sanctuary was filled with wonderful music (voices, organ and cello), which, coupled with scripture readings, gentle candlelight and warm fellowship – ushered in the season of Christ's birth with great joy and peace.

Christian Education

Jason Neal, Chair



The Sunday school met 16 times in 2015, with Darcy Stevens as the teacher. A total of ten children participated throughout the year. They did not meet in the summer months.

In December the Sunday school children put on their annual Christmas pageant, which was well-received by the congregation.

New copies of the Book of Order were purchased in early 2015. One was given to each elder, one to Pastor Tom Philipp, and two extras are kept in the gallery of the church for reference during Session meetings, as well as for general reference.

In 2016, Jack Frankie will begin pre-confirmation classes with Elder Neal, and then meet with Pastor Tom for confirmation classes.

PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

2015 Year End Report

Kappy Tilney, Chair

Throughout the year, the committee oversaw the general maintenance of church property. On June 6, 2015 and August 29, 2015, several members and friends gathered for two yard clean-ups.

Due to Claudia Taylor's dedication and hard work, the Memorial Garden's appearance has been greatly improved.

During the year, several improvements were made. On February 6, 2015, HB Millwork installed the pulpit handrails and on June 30, 2015, the manse driveway was paved.

A major focus of the committee's work was discussion and planning for the parking lot expansion and paving and installation of a lamppost at the driveway's entrance. As a result of that focus, the committee recommended to the session that a capital campaign be established and a capital campaign committee be formed for the purpose of fund raising for the parking lot/lamppost project. The session agreed to the committee's recommendation. Much of the committee's original planning has come to fruition. It was a busy year.

Committee Members:

The Rev. Tom Philipp, John Deitz, Sean Moran, Richard Thomas, and Kappy Tilney.

ANNUAL REPORT OF 2015 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND COMMITTEE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF CHURCH PARKING LOT AND DRIVEWAY

In the summer of 2015 a Capital Campaign Fund Committee was formed consisting of Pastor Tom Philipp, Nancy Best, John Deitz, Elizabeth Fuka and Irene Stahman.



The committee has met several times, beginning in the summer, and a letter was sent to members and friends of Old South Haven Church explaining the project and the need for funds amounting to \$45,400. The plans

showed the repaving and enlarging of the parking lot, the enlargement of the driveway and a lamppost to be installed at the entrance to the driveway. The lamppost, through a contribution from a member, has been installed and the parking lot has been completed.

From up-front contributions and pledges which can be spread over 3 years, a \$1,000 grant from the Post-Morrow Foundation, and proceeds from the Christmas Boutique sponsored by the Deacons along with Committee and congregation members, we have reached 86% of our goal, or \$39,111.79. Thank you letters have been sent to all contributors, and we are very grateful for the response.



2015 Financial Report Summary

Richard Thomas, Treasurer

2015 Income*, excluding 2015 Capital Fund Income, Compared to 2014 Income

Excluding the 2015 Capital Fund Contributions, the deposits for 2015 totaled about \$74,500.

The Capital Campaign Fund 2015 income totaled about \$23,000.

The total of deposits in 2014 totaled about \$87,000.

The deposits in 2015 (excluding Capital Fund contributions) were approximately \$12,600 less than in 2014. A significant portion of this decrease in income was due to the deaths of primary donors.

2015 Expenses*, excluding 2015 Capital Fund Expenses, Compared to 2014 Expenses

Excluding 2015 Capital Fund expenses, the total of disbursements in 2015 totaled about \$75,700.

The 2015 Capital Fund expenses totaled about \$27,700.

Without the 2015 Capital Campaign Fund expenses, the 2015 disbursements, were about \$1,700 less than the total disbursements in 2014.

** All amounts rounded. Copies of the detailed financial reports are available in the vestibule.*



OUTREACH AND MISSION

2015 Year End Report

Linda Scott, Chair

There were nine recipients of discretionary mission in 2015. They were:

- Presbytery of LI - mission
- Presbytery of LI - Heifer Int'l Gift Ark Project
- Patchogue Neighbors INN
- Thursday's Child
- Encampment for Citizenship, Jason Neal - reimb.
- Long Island Council of Churches
- More Light Presbyterians
- Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York
- ProgressiveChristianity.org

Throughout the year of 2015, three of the above had a representative join us at a Pot Luck Supper to educate and explain the work they do, and at the Thanksgiving Pot Luck Pastor Tom read a letter from a student from Union Seminary.

If you would like detailed information on the missions OSH supports, please contact me.

As you can see, we still need a little more than \$6,000, and look forward to any further contributions that may come in.



Music Department

Sandy Asselta **Organist/Choir Director**



As seasons change and we anticipate spring weather in just a few short weeks, I'm happy to say there have been some very positive and enjoyable changes in Old South Haven's choir as well.

We continue to welcome and encourage new voices in our choral fellowship, whether on a continual basis or for a particular event or during a particular season. Over the coming several months I am looking forward to utilizing more of the individual talents within our

choir... instrumentalists as well as solos, duets, trios, quartets... yes, male and female alike. We will all enjoy listening to the variety in musical worship that brings joy to the heart and soul, as we discover more of God's blessings bestowed upon our congregation and shared within our community.

Music of the Churches

On February 21, the Old South Haven Presbyterian Church choir joined with six area churches in a festival of choirs. Each choir presented one or two anthems of various styles to an enthusiastic audience in the Bellport Methodist Church fellowship Hall. Participating congregations were: New Bethel First Pentecostal Church, Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, Christ Church Episcopal, Bell Ringers of the Christ Episcopal and Bellport Methodist Churches, The Journey fellowship, Spiritus choir of St. Joseph the Worker Church and the Bellport Methodist Church. Included in the program were audience sing-alongs and a massed choir benediction.

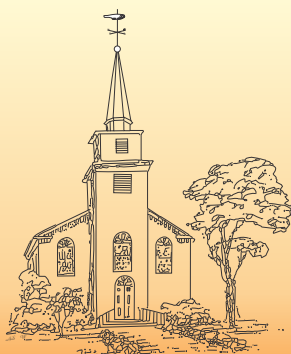


Members of the Old South Haven Church choir are: Sandy Asselta, director and accompanist; Ken Asselta, Deborah Denis, Diane Hall, Janice Hoffman, Deb Mayo, Tom Philipp, Reiny Schuhmann, Darcy Stevens, Alan Stevens and Richard Thomas.

Pastor Tom's 80th Birthday Celebration



On Saturday, February 20, we celebrated Pastor Tom's 80th birthday. About 70 church and community well wishers gathered in the Carriage House. Clockwise from top: Choir joined by attendees serenading; Philipp family (Tom holding Katherine Margaet Pettker, his two month old grand-niece, daughter of his niece Elizabeth and her husband David Pettker; behind Tom is Joseph Vione, grand nephew, son of Rachel and Joseph Vione, Sr.; Joseph is holding his cousin and Tom's grand nephew Nicholas Pettker; next are Tom's nieces, the Rev. Rachel Philipp Vione and her sister Elizabeth Philipp Pettker); far right is Nicholas testing that the cake is safe to eat.



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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