

Pastor's Corner:

Pastor Tom Philipp

Falling Leaves



On October 26-27, I attended the annual Presbytery's Clergy Retreat, held at The Cenacle located in Ronkonkoma. It is a beautiful spot with large lawn space, gigantic trees, and several roadways and walking paths that permit you to rejoice in God's good creation.

I took a stroll during free time that gave exercise not only to my body but to my soul. It was a stroll spent in contemplation. The trees were abloom in the rich colors of autumn. One could not help but give thanks to God the Artist. As I walked I realized I was walking among leaves that had fallen. They had become brown and would soon be trampled and then raked up to be destroyed. Fall in all of its beauty is also the acknowledgement of impending death.

I could not help but think about the plight of fallen leaves. It is nature's way of saying goodbye.



I thought about of how many things I have had to say goodbye to, not only persons who have meant much to me and from whom I have become separated through death or through distance. I thought of how relationships which once had been aglow for me but had now fallen, been trampled on,

to be discarded. I thought of projects started and never finished, I thought of tasks thought about but never undertaken. These were as fallen leaves in my life. I thought about the inevitability of much of this. A given.

Then I looked at the trees themselves. Soon they would be barren but they would continue to stand. The storms of winter would come, and they would withstand the winter cold



The traditional community Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will take place on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 4:00pm. This year it will be held at Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church at 16 Browns Lane in Bellport.

Pastor Tom will be the preacher. Other clergy participating are Father Martin Curtin of St. Joseph the Worker, East Patchogue; Rev. Yuri Ando, Bellport United Methodist; Rev. Deacon Bob Lyons of Mary Immaculate and Rev. Hickman Alexandre of St. James Episcopal Church, Brookhaven.

A choir will consist of choir members from the various congregations.



and the winter winds. Trees can withstand if their roots are deep.

"God grant me faith solid as a tree, with roots that keep me anchored, and roots that reach for that which nourishes and sustains even when the winter winds blow, even when once beautiful dreams, hopes, ambitions have fallen to the earth; when relationships have come to an end, when projects remain uncompleted, and some tasks never even begun.

God grant me faith solid as a tree that awaits new birth out of winter's hibernation. New dreams, new hopes, new projects, new relationships, the promise of spring to all we long for, anticipate, and expect. God grant me faith solid as a tree that experiences the seasons, and rejoices in their rhythm." Amen.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Judith Bird, Chair

The church will be holding a Christmas/holiday boutique on Saturday, December 10 from 10 am-3 pm in the Carriage House. We will be accepting donations for the food table, jewelry and other Christmas/holiday items until Friday, December 9. You may also bring them to the gallery on Sunday, December 4. They may be dropped off at the church. We will also need help setting up the tables in the Carriage House, as well as carrying items and putting up signs on the church grounds. Although the Deacons are sponsoring this event, we would appreciate other volunteers. Thank you in advance.



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Some Enchanted Evening

Rinaldo Toglia is a versatile performer whose romantic tenor voice has brought him success on the operatic stage and in his popular solo act, as well as television commercials and voice over's. Rinaldo has headlined for Holland American Cruise lines and sung at performances across the country including New York's Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall.



In Atlantic City, Rinaldo has been featured at Caesars Atlantic City, Trump Plaza and Casino, Resorts Casino and Hotel. His many television appearances include The Food Network program, "Throw Down" with Chef Bobby Flay, America's got Talent season seven as well as a new Syndicated Show 98.6 degrees

Daniel Ragone, vocal coach and pianist, was a major fixture in the New York City vocal scene for many years. He recently relocated to Long Island where he maintains a thriving studio in Port Jefferson. Daniel has given performances and master classes at many Long Island colleges including Stony Brook, St. Joseph's, Hofstra and Suffolk County Community College. His first rate pianistic skills keep him busy as a performer and recording artist. In addition to performing regularly at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, Mr. Ragone is the founder and music director of the ensemble, Divalicious! and artistic director of the series, Music on the Sound, presented by the First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson. www.DanielRagone.com



Music Department

Sandy Asselta Organist/Choir Director

As the weather cools and the seasons change, the choir at Old South Haven looks to renew its dedication to bringing musical praise to our worship services. I am continually grateful for the opportunity to work with folks who enjoy one another and work well together, blending voices as God blesses our efforts. We have been very fortunate to meet new instrumentalists over the last year and look forward to welcoming and enjoying their talent once again in our special seasonal services. There is always opportunity for new (or used!) voices and instruments throughout the year. Please remember there is no "membership" necessary to participate in our choir and musical offerings; come find out how much fun it is to mix song with joy and laughter, and enjoy the feeling of accomplishment!



The Christmas Joy Offering

This is one of three special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA in which we participate.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. The offering distributes gifts 50/50 to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



\$1.1 million of gifts from 2015 are being used to provide financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Income supplements helped nearly 300 households, and housing supplements helped more than 200 households.

The offering will be received and dedicated on December 11.

The Story of Our Steeple Bell

Richard Thomas

Advent and Christmas are times when we especially think of bells. Every morning we hear the tolling of our steeple bell calling us to worship.

Dorothy Jones, who regularly sits in a forward pew, has a special connection to our bell. Her grandparents were James Howell Post and Louisa Henderson Wells. Louisa Wells was the daughter of the Rev. Dr. John Dunlap Wells of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn (Williamsburgh). The Rev. Dr. Wells was responsible for the Brookhaven Methodist Episcopal Church getting a bell for their steeple.

The Meneely Bell was cast in Troy, New York, about 02 Dec 1897. It's approximately 27-inches in diameter and weighs 418 lbs. (bronze). It was transported to Brookhaven, installed, and rung on 19 Dec 1897:

It turns out the bell for the Brookhaven Methodist Church building was "practically a gift from Presbyterians." In the 1898 Minutes of the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Presiding Elder of the District, Charles S. Wing, *stated*:

The other wonder has been accomplished at the village of Brookhaven, where Brother R. P. Christopher, a local elder, long employed as a supply within the bounds of this Conference, is in charge. He found the church in a dilapidated condition and the people discouraged. He was fortunate in securing the friendship of the Rev. J. D. Wells, the venerable pastor of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church in this city [Brooklyn], who was spending his summer vacation at Brookhaven. Dr. Wells has shown much kindness to our cause in that village in former years. He encouraged Brother Christopher to undertake the required improvements, and made that undertaking possible by generously subscribing and obtaining contributions from prominent men of his own denomination. Brother Christopher and the members of the church did what they could, but the edifice, which is new to all appearance and very tasteful, is practically a gift from the Presbyterians—their generosity making our gifts look small—and is an evidence of Christian brotherhood which should never be forgotten. The rebuilding cost about \$1,800, and all the bills are paid.

Rev. Wells would have been vacationing in Brookhaven at the home of his son-in-law, no doubt.

James Howell Post was not only the President of the Board of Trustees of the South Haven Presbyterian Church, he was concurrently the President of the Board of Trustees of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn.



I expect most, if not nearly all, of the contributions Dr. Wells obtained from "prominent men of his own denomination" were obtained from James H. Post. Who else could he have persuaded to fund the rebuilding of a small Methodist church in the little hamlet of Brookhaven?

Brooklyn Eagle: December 18, 1897
IN LONG ISLAND CHURCHES
Dedicatory Ceremonies Tomorrow at Brookhaven

Brookhaven, L. I., December 18---Tomorrow will be a gala day with the Brookhaven Methodists, it being the occasion of the dedication of their new church. An extended programme has been prepared and it will occupy the entire day. The Rev. A. W. Byrt, pastor of the Patchogue M. E. Church will preach at the morning service. In the afternoon the Rev. C. S. Wing, presiding elder of the Brooklyn South District, will deliver an address, after which he will, with the assistance of several other members, dedicate the church. At the evening service the Rev. F. B. Stockdale of Southampton will preach. A number of former pastors of the church are expected to be present and take part in the services. The choir has arranged a special programme of music for the occasion. For the first time the new Meneeley [sic.] bell will call the congregation together. The members of the church are looking forward to a grand day.

Old South Haven obtained possession of the bell on September 27, 1945, when the Brookhaven Methodist Church gave a deed to their property on Beaver Dam Road to the South Haven Presbyterian Church trustees.

In December 1961, almost a year after the Old South Haven church was moved from South Haven, the 418-pound bell was removed from the belfry of the Methodist church and put in the tower above the organ niche. The men who worked on this project were Harold Sylvester, Earl Light, Howard Sterns, William Mooney and Frederick Mohlmann.

Some ENCHANTED Evening

Sunday, December 11 5:00pm

We are pleased to present Cheryl Savitt Spielman, Soprano and Rinaldo Toglia, Tenor, with Daniel Ragone, Director and pianist in a program of Broadway Show hits: (Rodgers and Hammerstein, Bernstein and Sondheim, Jerome Kern, Andrew Lloyd Webber and several others). These three artists recently performed this program at Sachem Library to an audience of 150. Pastor Tom was there and invited them to bring this program to Old South Haven. They are thrilled to be able to do so. Tickets will be \$20.

Cheryl Savitt Spielman, soprano, starred for ten years off-Broadway with the Light Opera of Manhattan's productions of *The Merry Widow*, *The Desert Song*, *Student Prince*, *The Vagabond King*, *The Mikado*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and *HMS Pinafore* to name a few. She was soloist in Mozart's Coronation Mass with The Stony Brook Chorale under the direction of Robert Page, as well as soloist in Carmina Burana, Beethoven's Mass in C, and Schubert's Mass in G. She has given vocal recitals in various venues on Long Island and sings occasionally with Opera Night LI in Northport and Opera On the Sound in Port Jefferson. She recently performed at the Sachem Library in Holbrook and at The Tilles Center's annual fund-raising gala. She appears monthly at La Villini's Restaurant in East Northport.



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Advent Season of Events

First Sunday of Advent - Nov. 27

Lighting the Candle of Hope
Sermon: "Looking for Signs"

Second Sunday of Advent - Dec. 4

Lighting the Candle of Peace
Sermon "A Noel to the Lone Ranger"

Saturday, Dec. 10

Christmas Boutique
Carriage House

Third Sunday of Advent - Dec. 11

Lighting the Candle of Joy
Sermon "Something New is trying to be Born"
5:00pm "Some Enchanted Evening"
Cheryl Savitt-Spielman and Rinaldo Toglia

Friday, December 16 - Pastor Tom's

Christmas Party at the Manse for Deacons, Session members, Officers, staff and spouses.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Dec. 18

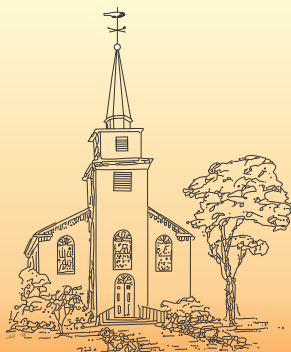
Lighting the Candle of Love
Sermon: "Present Perfect"

Christmas Eve 11:00pm

A Candle Light Service
Lighting the Christ Candle
A Service of Lessons and Carols, with several of our members reading the scripture passages that tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child.
The evening will be interspersed with singing carols and special music.

Christmas Day

Sermon: "Christmas Affirmation"



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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