

Pastor's Corner:

Pastor Tom Philipp

“When Past Is Past”



After spending a week of study leave at the Chautauqua Institution, located at Chautauqua, New York, a few miles from Jamestown, I decided to take the trip back to Long Island by way of places where I have served earlier in my ministry. I have referred often to the years 1965 to 1972 when I was the Protestant chaplain at SUNY Oswego and an Assistant Professor of History at that college. Oswego is directly north of Syracuse, around 35 miles. The town one drives through just prior to reaching Oswego is Fulton, New York.

The city of Fulton made headlines in the 1930s as the “City the Great Depression Missed”. One knew when you reached Fulton because it was the home of both Birds Eye and Nestle. The smell of chocolate was quite pronounced. If you drove through in the morning hours it was the smell of dark chocolate. Later in the day it was the smell of sweet chocolate. I wondered how anyone could live there. The smell was more than just prominent...it was choking. The Nestle factory opened in 1900 and for 102 years provided jobs and attracted new families to the area to live and work. The Nestle factory reached its peak employment in the 1960s (the period I was at Oswego) with 1,500 workers. Nestle closed in 2003 and Birds Eye in 2011. Both companies have moved their operations to Wisconsin. I have done a little research and discovered that worker compensations costs in New York are about \$12,000 annually per employee, compared to \$1,100 per employee in Wisconsin.

I decided to drive up some of the streets that were familiar to me from my time there. It was devastating. It was obvious that houses that need some repairs and improvements were not receiving that attention. I felt for the families living in that situation.

Oswego is a different story. The presence of the ever expanding University there has had its impact. I saw a number of new stores and businesses that have come into being since I lived there. The old Oswego Hotel is gone. The buildings along the waterfront that I knew are all gone with new establishments replacing them, catering to individuals who evidently have money to spend. I was anxious to see the first and second homes I had lived in there --- but the first is now gone and replaced with a house I could not afford. The second house I lived in (a quite modern structure at the time) was the Protestant Center on the lower level with my spacious living quarters on the upper floor with a wonderful balcony on which I held parties. Yes, the house has been remodeled. There

Continued page 2

A WEEK AT CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION

The Chautauqua Institution is a non-profit education and summer resort for adults and youth located on 750 acres in Chautauqua, NY, 17 miles northwest of Jamestown in the southwestern part of New York State. It was founded in 1874 by inventor Lewis Miller and Methodist Bishop John Heyl Vincent as a teaching camp for Sunday School teachers. It has operated each summer since, expanding its season length, now nine weeks (in 2018 from June 23 to August 26) and offering, in its large newly rebuilt Amphitheater (over 6,000 seats), a morning ecumenical worship service, followed an hour later by a lecture on a social, political or academic issue. The afternoon offers follow up talks on the issue discussed in the morning.

The evening offers a different entertainment event each night; a range of a symphony concert, an opera, a show by a guest artist or musical group, or maybe a dance group or a play. There are also regularly scheduled organ recitals on the wonderful Massey Memorial Organ.

Facilities on the grounds includes a library, movie theater, bookstore, condominiums, inns, rooming houses (including denominational residences which provide breakfast and an evening meal as well as lodging) many private cottages, and the 156 room Athenaeum Hotel, said to be the largest wooden building in the eastern United States, built in 1881. I



Methodist House

stayed at the Methodist house (the Presbyterian House was full) and made several new friends.

Since coming to Old South Haven, Claudia Taylor has been encouraging me to spend a week at Chautauqua. This summer I finally did, attending the final week of its season. What a Blessing! The preacher of the week was The Rev. Suzan Denise Johnson Cook, a Black pastor, theologian, author, activist, academic, policy advisor to President Bill Clinton, and appointed Ambassador-at-Large for International Freedom by President Barak Obama. She was also the first female senior pastor in the 200 year history of the American Baptist Churches, and a close friend of Coretta Scott King. PLUS she is a graduate of my seminary, Union Theological of NY. Cook, in her series of sermons based on Isaiah 6, called on us to “look in, look up and look out. Look in at yourself, look up to God, then look out and see the homeless, the helpless and the hurting.” Spending a week hearing her preach and having an opportunity to engage her in conversation, was in and of itself worth the time at Chautauqua.

Continued page 2

When Past is Past, continued from page 1

is no longer a Protestant Center on campus, and the Coffee House I ran as part of our ministry, is gone. Yes, it is hard to accept that a ministry once flourishing is no more, giving way to present interests and commitments. Of course, I felt disappointment. "When Past is Past"

The next and final town I wanted to visit was Watervliet, New York, a few miles north of Albany, the home of the Watervliet Arsenal, a government installation that played an important role in the Second World War and continues to operate today. Watervliet is the home of Jermain Memorial Presbyterian which dates back to the late 1800s. I was ordained to the Christian ministry on June 17, 1962, and served at Jermain Memorial from July 1 of that year until 1965 as Assistant Minister. I knew this Congregation had gone through a lot of turmoil



Jermain Memorial

beginning around 2000, leading to their decision to leave our denomination a few years ago. I really got anxious as I entered those streets so familiar to me from over 50 years ago. I was hoping someone would be at the Church who could let me in to take in the beauty of the large sanctuary, and stand in the pulpit once again after all these years. I arrived at the Church and found the door knobs had been taken off of the outside doors. I have to omit I shed a few tears. The only door available to me was a door to which you could enter the Day Care Center, which is the only function taking place at Jermain today. I rang the bell and the custodian for the Center let me in and inquired why I was there. After explaining, he got a set of keys to take me into the now unused facility. I learned the congregation today consisted of just five people! When I was there it was 530 members. "When Past is Past"

This seems to be the story of life. Sometimes it is very hard to move from successes of the past to the realities of the present, but one needs to acknowledge "When Past is Past", acknowledge the challenges of THIS day and maybe discover new opportunities whether in Fulton, Oswego, Watervliet, and, yes, at Old South Haven.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Sandy Asselta
Organist/Choir Director

We can all ask the perennial question...where does the time go? Summer vacations have come and gone. Whether we spent them at home or away, inside or out, working or playing, hopefully some relaxation and enjoyment was in the mix for us all.

Old South Haven's choir is once again gathering together and providing music, such an important and appreciated element of worship, to our services on Sunday mornings. We welcome not only new participation; we invite any who have sung or played instrumental music in the past to join us at any time. No requirements...just bring a smile and a willingness to be a part of a group which enjoys one another and the blessings of praise through music. I look forward to a new season of working -- and laughing -- with a wonderful group of folks. Come see for yourself!

CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION continued from page 1

The theme for the morning lectures and afternoon presentations for this particular week was "Food and Faith". There was opportunity to hear from Anna Blyth Lappe, the daughter of Frances Lappe, whose best seller "Diet for a Small Planet" was a ground



Chautauqua Amphitheater

breaking book about why there's hunger in a world of plenty. Anna Lappe continues the work of her Mother and is an authority on land-based food systems and continues to fight for fair, healthy, humane, local and environmentally responsible food chains. Other speakers addressed other aspects of the food situation: a renowned chef, a priest running a program for ex-offenders now gainfully employed in bakeries: "We don't hire homies to bake bread, we bake bread to hire homies."

Each evening there was the opportunity to attend a major music offering, one night it was the Beach Boys, another The Joey Alexander Jazz Trio, a third, the Cuban Dance Flamenco Company, a fourth, the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. Any one of these musical events was well worth being at Chautauqua.

Pastor Tom

BOARD OF DEACONS

Judith Bird, Chair

We continued our tradition of holding social events for the congregation. On May 21 there was a pot luck dinner and on June 11 we held our spring picnic. The new season was welcomed in with our fall picnic on September 10.

A church fair was held on Memorial Day weekend, May 27 with beautiful spring-like weather. The fair included not only the customary yard sale but also a "collectibles" table, food table and Richard Thomas' hot dog stand. In addition, there were 8 vendors with a variety of antiques and collectibles, vintage cars and music by Reinhardt Schuhmann and his son. Proceeds of over \$1,000 were added to the church's coffers. ("Celebrity" visitor from Bellport, Charlie Rose, was on hand)

The revised edition of the church directory was distributed to the congregation and others.

A donation to Guiding Eyes for the Blind was given in memory of Caroline Asselta.



Picnic, Sept 10, 2017

The King of Riddles

There once was a King in a powerful country who spoke to his people both far and near. When he spoke in public for all to hear, the words he uttered were never quite clear.

"He didn't mean this and he didn't mean that," his cohorts explained, what he really means is something quite different." Now, this news left the people extremely nonplussed – "If we can't believe the words of our King, what can we believe and who can we trust?" Ask anyone in the land – Belief and Trust go hand-in-hand!

Is our King a leader or is he a Clown? How can we judge his performance when he tells us something untrue? What he says should be what he means, or is it a Riddle or two? And so, dear friends, best grab your fiddles, and dance to his tune, for some time quite soon, he will change all the Rules, and play you for fools!



In this Poker game of Politics, the stakes are very high, and in his sly, inarticulate way, he's a 'devil in disguise', as he rolls the dice before your eyes. This master of deceit is quite a tricky guy! He will woo you and pursue you, and he'll charm you and disarm you.

And I don't want to alarm you, but you should not be taken in by this 'pseudo-politician'. He will treat you with the utmost respect and then tip the scales when you least expect. You may think you have fooled him if you've ridiculed him? But beware, this 'sleight-of-hand magician' will get even in the end. For you will go on his list for retaliation (with some measure of humiliation), and he will get the better of you when he's ready to, and you will feel the power of his most unrighteous indignation!

But take heart, my friends, and be not dismayed, for this King of Riddles and Master of Deceit cannot defeat the power of the people, who are the Voice of this Nation, and he will sink into the swamp of his own creation.

Composed by a Concerned Citizen, inspired by the "Truth Fairy."

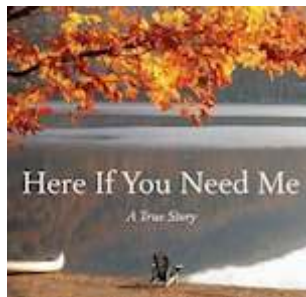


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Book Study

Jason Neal, Chair

On Sunday, September 17th, there was a discussion of the book "Here If You Need Me": A True Story by Kate Braestrup.

According to one reviewer, "HERE IF YOU NEED ME" is the story Kate Braestrup's remarkable journey from grief to faith to happiness - as she holds her family together in the wake of her husband's death, pursues his dream of becoming a minister, and ultimately finds her calling as a chaplain to search-and-rescue workers. It is dramatic, funny, deeply moving, and simply unforgettable--an uplifting account of finding God through helping others, and of the small miracles that happen every day when a heart is grateful and love is restored."



Ringing against hate Church bells chime in solidarity with Charlottesville

BY TARA SMITH

Earlier this month, Bellport resident Darcy Stevens sat down to read the Sunday paper. The coverage she saw of the violence in Charlottesville, Va., terrified her. "I couldn't believe what was going on," she said. As she scanned the headlines, she felt helpless, but wanted to do something. From her back porch that morning, she could hear the church bells ringing at Mary Immaculate Church. The bells offered a moment of tranquility, and suddenly she had an idea.

She approached her pastor, Rev. Thomas Philipp at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, and asked if he would be on board with ringing their 120-year-old bell each night at 8:12 p.m. to reflect the date of the protests on Aug. 12. Since then, the nearly 50 members of the congregation have taken turns pulling the rope each night just after 8 p.m.

"It's a small but meaningful gesture," Stevens said, adding that she has contacted other area churches to join in. Mary Immaculate and the Bellport United Methodist Church have also begun ringing their bells in solidarity. Stevens said the bells are meant to honor those who stood up for equality, and as a call against bigotry and hate. They will continue on through September.

"The images from Charlottesville were so devastating, and the bells make people stop and think," she said. This past week, with the church to herself, she climbed to the church balcony pulled the rope to sound the bell. "It's a quiet time to think, reflect, and hope that we can do better," she said.

Pictured above: Darcy Stevens, a member of the Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, started ringing the bell at the church to show solidarity against hate in Charlottesville.

ADV/Smith



NEW CHURCH MEMBER AND A BAPTISM

We are happy to welcome into our membership on Sunday, September 24, **Deborah Denis**. Deborah has been attending Old South Haven for many months and has been a faithful member of the Choir. She was born in Haiti, and before coming to the United States, lived in the Dominican Republic, where most of her family resides. Deborah speaks French, Creole, Spanish and English.

On that Sunday we have the privilege to baptize **Benjamin William Neal**, son of Deborah Denis and Jason A. Neal. Benjamin was born on March 26, 2017 at Southside Hospital, and weighed in at 7 lbs, 2 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. He has been the major attraction at our Coffee hours beginning the second week of his life!



PRAYERS EXTENDED — Irma and Harvey

Many members of OSH and our local community have family, friends and property that have been affected by the devastation of hurricanes Harvey and especially Irma. Many had to be evacuated and still face difficulty with continued flooding and restoration.

Our prayers are with them.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program has been active providing help to people in the regions affected by the storms. **Contributions** to the disaster assistance program may be made through OSH — just indicate on your check or envelope “Disaster Relief.” More on this program may be found at <https://pda.pcusa.org/situations/national/>

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"The greatest barrier to peacemaking is fear."



Liesel Steinhauer, 2017 Peacemaking Essay Winner reading her essay from our pulpit."

2017 WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

DATE	GREETER	LAY READER	COFFEE HOUR
Oct. 1	K. Tilney	B. Mullahy	Gallo/Neal
Oct. 8	J. Barry	C. Taylor	Frankie/Majowka
Oct. 15	L. Gallo	S. Moran	Hall/Schuhmann
Oct. 22	S. Moran	K. Barry	Best/Bird
Oct. 29	M. Unny	Jason Neal	Mayo/Taylor
Nov. 5	K. Tilney	N. Best	Barry/Brown
Nov. 12	T. Fernandez	B. Mullahy	Fuka/Tilney
Nov. 19	Joann Neal	L. Majowka	Hofmann/Stevens
Nov. 26	J. Bird	S. Moran	Hall/Schuhmann
Dec. 3	K. Tilney	N. Best	Moran/Neal
Dec. 10	S. Moran	Jason Neal	Frankie/Majowka
Dec. 17	E. Fuka	C. Taylor	Best/Bird
Xmas Eve			
Dec. 24	Neal Family	—	Majowka/Tilney/Thomas
Dec. 31	M. Unny	K. Barry	Gallo/Neal

COMMUNION

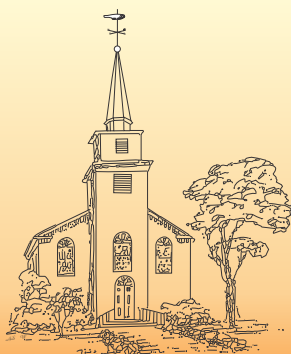
10/1 Majowka
 11/5 Mayo
 12/3 Neal

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MUSIC CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

We are happy to announce that our next special music event will be presenting **Michael Douglas Jones** and **Francesca Lunghi** in recital.

Michael first appeared at Old South Haven on April 29, 2012 in a program “Opera, Organ and More”, sponsored by the Becker/Gambles Music Fund of the South Country Education Foundation. OSHPC presented him in September, 2013’s “Salute to American Composers” and again in January 2014 in “Songs We Love to Sing”. We are happy to be able to welcome him back.

Francesca Lunghi is happy to make her first appearance at OSHPC. She has sung in many venues on Long Island and beyond. A week after her program here she will resume her work with the Metropolitan Opera of New York.



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

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 Sandy Asselta, organist & choir director

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