### Old South Haven Presbyterian Church Open Hearts, Open Minds, Anchored in Christ's Love

Upen Hearts, Upen Minds, Anchored in Christ's Love Fall. 2009

# Pastor's Corner Anoíhcr Academic Ycar



**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 movement 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, when 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 view is pessimistic; the linear view is optimistic. The linear view is open to possibilities for the future, both success and failures.

I have the two figures of a line and circle in mind as September arrived. A new school year is underway, and we begin another program year at Old South Haven Presbyterian church. How do I look at this? How do you look at this? How do we together look at this? Will it be another lap around the circle, covering the same familiar ground again, quite comfortable, nothing new? Or will it be stretching along a line into the future. A line not yet drawn, the future quite unknown. Risky? Yes. Uncomfortable? Yes. Quite challenging? Yes.

I don't want to take just another lap around the track so familiar to us. I want to go forward into a way not yet known, with compass in hand, but no



# **Danny Is Leaving Us**

Our organist, Daniel Corneliussen has given notice on Sept 13 that he is resigning to take another position.

His letter follows:

"I am sorry to say that I am

resigning from my position here as organist. I have been extremely lucky and am grateful to have had the chance to be a part of this church for the past year and nine months. I am especially thankful for the warm reception and wonderful friends that I have here. This is a place that I am sure I will miss very much.

I would like to say that deciding to leave Old South Haven was not an easy decision to make. Really the reason that I decided to leave is my financial situation – not because I do not love being here. I have taken a position at another church that offers a larger salary – and I must admit I do think this will be better for me in the long run even though Old South Haven is such a nice place. I have not been able to find many other sources of income.

Again, I am very sorry to be leaving Old South Haven, and I do wish the church the very best for their future. Thank you all so much and God Bless."

Daniel Corneliussen

Danny will be with us through the 11th of October except for Sunday, October 4, when he is giving a recital in Virginia). He has also forwarded to us names of three fellow students at Stony Brook who may have an interest in the position.

We will schedule a time to say "goodbye" in the next few weeks. Pastor Tom has expressed our best wishes to Danny in his new position.

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map. I want to be as Abraham and Sarah, going forth, not knowing where we are going. And there is the promise: "Lo, I am with you always."

PS. The Presbytery recently created a small church task force to which Sean Moran and I have been appointed. Part of our work is to identify options for congregations who can no longer support a pastor at their current level. This would include better sharing of resources among congregations. A good example is the situation with the congregations in the Mid Suffolk Parish.



## **Affention Women!**

Long Island Presbyterian Women invite you to the Annual Retreat at Cormaria October 6th and 7th. Cormaria is a retreat house situated on Sag Harbor Bay. The program begins at 12:30pm on Tuesday and ends with lunch on Wednesday. (Overnight is \$80; Tuesday alone is \$25; Wednesday alone is \$21.) The theme is "Nourishing the Spirit, recipe for healthy living."

"This year's retreat will be led by The Rev. Jeanne Baum who has so capably guided many LIPW gatherings and retreats in the past. She comes richly prepared to offer us new insights into the scriptures from her years of experience in ministry and pastoral care."

Registration form is available in the Gallery. Deadline for registration is Sept. 27th.

Comments from the Lunch Bunch Group

At a recent gathering two questions were raised that led to an interesting discussion: (1) what would you consider to be the most important event that has happened in your life?; (2) what is your favorite book you have read and treasure (Bible doesn't count)? Perhaps we will have a book study group this fall, looking at several of the books.

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#### **Congratulations to The Rev. Jean Southard**

Our summer issue of OSH NEWS contained an article indicating that Boston Presbytery had brought charges against Jean for officiating at a legal same-gender wedding last year. Jean is the former Jean Deitz, member of Old South Haven from 1968 to 1981. We have now received word from Jean that the charges have been dismissed.

Same sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts. Pastor Tom has joined a large group of New York State clergy advocating for passage of the same legislation in our State.

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#### Thank You

After Morning Worship on September 13 several of our members signed letters going to our state senator, voicing support for marriage equality for same sex couples in New York State. Those letters have now been forwarded. Pastor Tom thanks all who so participated.

## Sad Theology

John Piper, an evangelical pastor in Minneapolis, declared that it was providential that a tornado damaged the steeple of the Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis while the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was holding its convention nearby. It was, he said, a warning to the Lutheran body not to allow gays to be approved for ministry. Greg Boyd, a pastor and theologian in Minneapolis, challenged Piper's theology and noted that most tornadoes occur in the Bible Belt, the region least tolerant toward homosexuals, and that the fewest strike in the Northeast, where there is the most tolerance. (from *Christian Century*, Sept. 22, 2009)

### Worldwide Communion Sunday Ocíober 4

On Worldwide Communion Sunday, Christians from around the world gather in worship to receive the



elements of bread and wine in remembrance and celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is also a time to bear witness to the unity of Christians everywhere as we seek to live out

Christ's command - to work for justice and peace in a world that is deeply divided in conflict and war. As we worship on October 4, let us remember and pray for the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s 165 partner communions and other organizations who will be receiving communion.

This years theme is "Justice and peace shall kiss each other." (Psalm 85:10).

The 2009 Peacemaking Offering will be received on that Sunday. For the two Sundays prior, there will be bulletin inserts describing projects funded through this special offering. There will also be a Moment for Mission included in the Worship Service.

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### **Board of Deacons**

#### Kappy Tilney, President



On Saturday, August 22, 2009, the Deacons gathered at the manse. Several matters were discussed. In particular, the occasional community requests for financial assistance. The Deacons are thinking about guide lines that must be established for such requests.

Outreach to visitors and "ways and means" to introduce them to Old South Haven was reviewed. It was decided that additional copies of the historical brochure formatted in 1961 will be printed with possible updating. After our meeting, we enjoyed the delicious Berry Shortcake prepared by our host and other goodies provided by the guests. Many thanks to everyone!

Notes and cards continue to be sent to visitors and members of the congregation. If you are aware of a need where a call or visit would be helpful, please contact Kappy (286-0024).

The Deacons also continue to deliver food gathered in the narthex for the St. Joseph Food Pantry. When shopping for your household, please think of the food pantry and bring nonperishable items to worship.

#### **Coffee Hour**

When we gather for Coffee Hour, we are able to come together as friends as well as worshippers. Many thanks are extended to those who so generously provide the food for our table.

# Old South Haven Hosts Medical Missionary

The Presbytery of Long Island will have a "missionary in residence" from September 26 to October 1. **Dr. Magda Iskander**, a Presbyterian medical missionary based in Cairo Egypt, will be speaking at various churches on Long Island during this period. Dr. Iskander will speak particularly about her work developing home health care networks and ministering in the name of Jesus Christ in the midst of the world's largest Muslim city.



#### She will speak at Old South Haven on Thursday evening, October 1 at 7:00pm. We will be joined in hosting her that evening by the Mid Suffolk Parish and the Presbytery's Task Force on the Middle East.

Dr. Iskander has dedicated her life to honoring the dignity of people through holistic training and care of people in chronic need. In the early 1980's she came to the US for a radiology specialization. Upon her return to Egypt in1984, she established training centers to promote the use of ultrasound technology. While doing this work she was inspired to initiate a completely new concept in Egypt – home health care. Her work with medical mobile units in Egyptian villages in 1994 expanded her firsthand understanding of the primary health care challenges of her people.

We look forward to hearing from her. A coffee hour will follow her presentation.

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#### Presbyfery's 2009 Visioning Refreat

On Saturday, September 19 Presbytery will have a morning and afternoon session considering the next step in shaping itself for the future. It is committed to developing a partnership approach which empowers grassroots mission and to work together as collaborative teams. This retreat will focus on staffing needs for the future. Pastor Tom will be attending.

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Advance (Patchogue, NY), 30 October 1880: "An amusing case of absentmindedness occurred in our village [Brookhaven Hamlet] last Sabbath morning. As Mr. Timothy Ketcham was walking past the house of Mr. Jehiel Woodruff, he espied Mr. Woodruff down in the corn field with his cattle before the wagon carting his stalks. As Mr W. is a most conscientious man, he (Mr. K.) was greatly surprised, and going down to where he was at work the following dialogue took place: Mr. K. - Do you know what day it is? Mr. W.- Of course I know, it's Saturday. Mr. K.- No it isn't, it's Sunday. An incredulous look panned over Mr. W.'s countenance, and dropping his fork, he unyoked his cattle, went home and dressed himself in time to attend church that morning.

# "Pride for Youfh" Fund Raiser

On Saturday October 17 at 5:00pm Old South Haven will host a fund raiser for Pride For Youth, (PFY), a project of the Long Island Crisis Center. It is based in Bellmore and

serves GLBT youth and their families with individual counseling and social events. Pastor Tom is a past president of LICC and a founder and present member of the Advisory board for PFY.



#### The fund raiser will feature musical numbers offered by Kairos, a unit of the New Century Singers, with testimonies from young people who have been aided by their involvement with PFY.

Donation of \$20. The following evening a similar event will take place in the Bellmore Presbyterian Church. This program will feature the full ensemble of New Century Singers.

The New Century Singers is composed of GLBT individuals. They have become well known for their high quality musical concerts, given to support various projects.

Old South Haven is proud to host this event.

### Pof Luck Supper - September 27th Ann Wiswall

The next Pot-Luck Supper for our church is scheduled for September 27 at 6:00pm. It is an opportunity to gather together now that summer activities have ended and to enjoy each other's company as we share a delicious meal. If you can help with setting up a little earlier, please contact Ann (286-0384).

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#### **Our Episcopal Neighbors Holding a Surf and Turf Dinner**

St. James Episcopal Church is hosting a dinner which will include lobster, steak, baked potato, corn on the cob, salad, desert and beverages! The event is being held Saturday, September 26, from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Adults \$25. Children 10 and under \$12.00. Children 5 and under FREE.

## A Word ío Remember

The great French painter August Renoir suffered from painful arthritis in his later years, and had to strap a brush to his paralyzed fingers to do his creating. When friends suggested he give up painting, Renoir responded: "Pain passes but beauty remains forever." Paul Countinho in "Just As You Are"

### **Caifhness Granf Resubmission**

Old South Haven's first proposal for Caithness Community Benefit Funding was rejected by the Caithness Citizens Advisory Committee. This decision was based on the judgment of the legal advisor to Councilwoman Connie Kephart not to grant monies "for religious purposes."

John Deitz, Richard Thomas and Pastor Tom requested and received an appointment with Councilwoman Connie Kephert, guestioning and challenging this decision indicating that our church building, known in our history as a "meeting house" is used for community events in addition to being our worship facility. At the meeting with the Councilwoman and members of her staff, Old South Haven was encouraged to resubmit the proposal basing our request on the need to maintain our historic structure. (Our first proposal evidently didn't make this argument strong enough).

Thanks goes to Richard Thomas for making changes in our resubmitted proposal, strengthening the case for the significance of our "meeting house" in the history of this community and the importance to maintain it because of this significance. We await the Advisory Committee's decision.

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#### **Morning Worship Assignments**

6-Sep	W. Scott	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
13-Sep	S. Moran	S. MacKay	H. Altomare
20-Sep	Sunday School	J. Neal	C. Kellogg
27-Sep	J/E Morgan	D. Jones	L. Scott
4-Oct	W. Scott	D. Mayo	P. Light
11-Oct	K. Barry	J. Barry	J. Neal
18-Oct	Sunday School	N. Best	A. Wiswall
25-Oct	J/E Morgan	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
1-Nov	W. Scott	F. Decker	G. LaFace
8-Nov	S. Moran	S. Welgoss	H. Altomare
15-Nov	Sunday School	S. MacKay	L. Scott
22-Nov	H. Altomare	S. Moran	C. Kellogg
29-Nov	J/E Morgan	J. Neal	N.Best
6-Dec	W. Scott	L. Scott	D. Stevens
13-Dec	K. Barry	J. Barry	A. Wiswall
20-Dec	Sunday School	B. Mullahy	L. Majowka
24-Dec	J. Neal		J. Deitz
27-Dec	J/E Morgan	L. Majowka	K. Tilney

### **Old South Haven Fall Film Series**

We launch this series of films on Sunday, September 20 at 7:00pm in the Gallery. The first film will be "Hear and Now". In this deeply personal memoir,

filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky documents her deaf parents complex decision to leave the world of silence and undergo a dangerous surgery to get cochlear implants - the only one of its kind that can restore a sense of hearing. How will this operation transform them and their relationship with each other. Our own George Stoney comments: "In addition to its information about a complex medical condition, it presents a love story and involving people well along in life. It may well spark a discussion about misconceptions regarding



relationships." Except for September, the film series moves to the 2nd Sunday evening of each month.



October 11, 7:00pm: "The Drummer." Sid, a rebellious son of a savage triad boss in Hong Kong, whom he despises, flees and joins a group of Zen drummers, eventually converting him from being wild and deviant into a firm and focused young man. There remains the question of his relationship to his family.

November 8, 7:00pm: "Food Inc." explores the way society

decides what to eat and how, as we have turned into a fast food community settling for unhealthy meals. This film, which had a long run in Manhattan, has been critically acclaimed and criticized and will cause us to look at what comes to our tables this Thanksgiving.



December 13. 7:00pm: "Frozen River"

This 2008 film takes place in the days before Christmas near a little-known border crossing on the Mohawk reservation between New York State and Quebec. Two women - one white, one Mohawk, both single mothers faced with desperate circumstances, are drawn into the world of border smuggling across the frozen water of the St. Lawrence River.

There is no charge for these films; even juice and pop corn are provided.



