

Pastor's Corner

Writing the Next Chapter



Lying on my coffee table, begging to be read (with other books of course) is the Church at the South: A History of the South Haven Church, written by the Rev George Borthwick in 1939 (published in 1989). I will look forward to reading it because I know the history of our Congregation is most significant. I have been reading the more recent history of Old South Haven. I have been reading the Session minutes of the past few years. All of this I feel will prove helpful as you and I together make plans for the next chapter in the life of this congregation.

In many ways life can be described as writing a book. Some chapters are long chapters, others much briefer. Some chapters speak of glorious days. Others speak of trials and travails. Each chapter has its uniqueness. Each builds on the ones preceding it, and, hopefully builds toward the one that follows.

I have been invited by your Session to help you write the next chapter in the life of this historic Congregation. We might call it a "bridge" chapter: bringing the story from what has been to what yet will be. It is a challenge that I readily accept for I have completed writing a chapter in the life of the Congregation I just served, Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick, a chapter covering twenty-five years, and in doing so, completed writing a twenty-five year chapter in my own life. So, even as I look forward to what lies ahead for you, I look forward to what lies ahead for me.

We are in the season of Commencements: college, high school, even nursery schools hold commencements. Sometimes we speak of them as Graduations. I like both words for they convey the idea of being

Editor's Corner ***Thought for Today***

Dear Christian brothers and sisters,

Bill and I have been part of the Old South Haven family since 1977. We had just moved into the hamlet, parents of 4 and 2 year olds. I have served many terms on Session and Bill taught Sunday School for 10 years, and also served two terms on Session. We found a home at Old South Haven through our lifelong journey.

Here's our thoughts for the day.

This has been a year of heartfelt emotion for all of us. Many changes have taken place. And, of course, with change comes some growing pains. However, through those growing pains we will find a deeper spiritual connection with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The members of Old South Haven Church with God's guidance have had the opportunity to take a deeper look at who we are. To view not only our strengths, but also those areas that need to be strengthened.

We are here for His Glory and His glory alone. May our hearts be forever open to His calling.

Many blessings to you and your families,

Linda and Bill Scott

at the threshold separating what has been from what is yet to be. Graduation speaks of completing something. Commencement speaks of starting something new.

Are we ready to commence? Even while celebrating what has been are we ready to move on? I believe Old South Haven has chapters yet to be written. I am thankful I have been invited to help write the next one. Let's write it together with vision, with commitment, and hard work. After all, that's the legacy we have inherited.

Thomas J. Philipp
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Reminder: Communion Sundays are Food Shelf Sundays. Bring a contribution of non-perishable food for the St. Joseph the Worker food shelf.

Jason Neal in Afghanistan

Member Jason Neal, son of Joanne and Bill Neal is currently serving in Afghanistan. He is on the church's email list and recently forwarded two notes to Pastor Tom.

June 8-

Hi Tom,

My mother told me you're the new pastor of Old South Haven. Congratulations.

I'm in Afghanistan, and have just started receiving the church bulletin in my email. It looks good. I'll try to send a photo of me and/or my soldiers in a week or so, that you might be able to include it in the bulletin at some point.

Last night, our FOB was probed with small arms fire, and they tried to send a couple donkeys laden with explosives to the main gate, but the plot was discovered before any detonation. This may not be Iraq, but it's no walk in the park. Please tell the congregation to keep us in prayer.

I have been a part of the chaplain's weekly services and midweek bible study since we arrived in Afghanistan. Next week, I will lead the bible study. I'll let you know how it goes.

Peace and blessings,
Jason A. Neal

June 11-

Hello everyone,

Just a short note to let you know I'm okay. Summer brings two things: the heat and the Taliban. Lately, enemy activity has increased, now that the spring thaw is over and the sun is out in full force. Please keep my battalion in prayer as we continue to take the fight to the enemy. Our soldiers are excited about the prospect of coming home, and letting the Romanians run this place, but we don't know how long it may take for them to get here and get ready.

As you can see from the background, we are in a mountainous desert region. Some of the people are friendly, and in some villages, kids throw rocks at our humvees. When we dismount and they see what they may have to contend with, the situation changes quickly, usually for the better. Wouldn't you want the men with the big guns on your side?

We are doing the best we can, but when your uncle or brother is Taliban...

Anyway, we are fine. I just wanted you all to know. Don't believe everything you see on the news, or see in the papers. Just keep the faith.

Peace always,
Jason

Robert Westaway Starke, husband to Helen Starke, died Tuesday morning, June 6, 2006, at aged 90. Bob was a long time friend of Old South Haven Church and the Brookhaven community. A memorial service at the family homestead on Bay Rd. is planned for July.

Prayer List

Starke Family

Linda Scott's Aunt for continuing recovery from surgery

Bill Scott's aunt in New Jersey

Sean's sister-in-law.

Men and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Looking Ahead ...

Sunday, June 25th, 10 am – Pastor Tom will be speaking in his sermon of the importance of music in the life of faith, and will pay tribute to our choir members and musicians.

Sunday, evening, June 25th, 6 pm – Pot-luck fellowship supper. John Deitz will present a slide show on Brookhaven/South Haven "Then and Now" with special emphasis on the life and times of the South Haven Church.

June 28th - July 3rd – Pastor Tom will be attending the annual National Campus Ministers Conference, this year held at Lewis and Clark University in Portland, Oregon. Theme is "Soul Matters: Campus Ministry at the Crossroads."

Sunday, Jul 2nd, 10 am – Elder Alan Stevens will be conducting the service and preaching. (Communion will be observed the second Sunday of July, instead of the first.)

Sunday, July 16th, 10 am – Our worship service will be enhanced with music by a group of recorder players.

August 14 - 18 – Daily Vacation Bible School sponsored by several of the churches in Brookhaven and Bellport, and held at the Methodist Church of Bellport. Classes begin for three year olds. Junior and Senior high young people will be able to serve as assistants in classes and crafts and sports.

Introduction of the Rev. Thomas Philipp to the congregation of Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

April 2, 2006
Elder John Deitz

Several members have asked that this introduction of Rev. Philipp delivered to the congregation be included in the church newsletter.

I have been asked to introduce the Rev. Thomas Philipp to you today.

Tom was originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul in 1958, majoring in political science and history with a minor in psychology. He then attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City, receiving his Master of Divinity in 1962. He also received a M.A. from the State University of New York at Albany in education and counseling in 1965.

He was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 1962 by the Presbytery of St. Paul, his call being as Assistant Pastor at Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church in Watervliet in upstate New York. He later was Protestant Chaplain and assistant professor of history at SUNY Oswego.

He came to Long Island in 1972 and joined the staff of the Long Island United Campus Ministers serving the colleges and universities of the island. In 1982 he became the half-time pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church in Merrick and the Executive Minister of the United Campus Ministries. He retired from the Merrick church at the end of February, this year, after 24 years in their pulpit; and from campus ministries late last year.

Tom has been active in the affairs of the Long Island Presbytery, being a past Moderator, a present member and past chair of the Committee on Ministry, chair of the Personnel Committee, and a present member of the General Council.

He has come now to sojourn a while with us and lead us as we move through a transitional phase in the life of this congregation – seeking to discover anew what God is calling us to be and to do in this particular time and this particular place.

I first came to know Tom from my involvement in peace and justice issues many, many years ago. In the 70's, this congregation and then the Presbytery were one of the first to study issues surrounding homosexuality in the church, and the ordination of gay and lesbian elders, deacons and ministers. I served with Tom on a Presbytery Task Force on Religion and Homosexuality, which was one of the models of the study that was later sponsored by the General Assembly. In typical Presbyterian fashion, we are still studying 30 years later. As I participated with the Presbytery in other peace and justice issues, Tom was omnipresent, often providing the intellectual support tempered with a practical realism needed to get position papers adopted and programs established. Tom remains a leading force in keeping peace and justice issues in the forefront of the Presbytery's agenda.

In his resume, Tom raised up four key theological issues for our time: Christianity within a time of religious pluralism, Christian triumphalism; human sexuality; and global poverty and economic systems. Tom also expressed concern that with all the discussion on peace, unity, and purity in the Presbyterian Church, a missing ingredient is justice. I am sure we will be hearing more of these in the coming months.

As we pass the peace this morning, let us especially welcome Pastor Tom to our midst.

Board of Deacons

Deacon Kappy Tilney

The Board of Deacons, under the aegis of the Session, hope to tackle two new projects.

Over the years, there has been discussion of initiating a Prayer Chain. The Deacons would like to facilitate the idea and make it functional. In some cases, the Deacons may be aware of particular prayer concerns. However, that is not always the case. Please call one of the Deacons and make them aware of any special concerns.

Many worship communities provide their congregants with tapes of the Pastor's sermons. Until now, Old South Haven has not been able to do so. Deacon Janet Barry's son, Kevin, has volunteered to tape Pastor Philipp's sermons. This will enable people who are unable to attend Sunday worship the opportunity of hearing the message. The next newsletter will provide more information.

The Deacons have volunteered to organize the logistics of the June 25th Potluck Supper. It should be an interesting and informative evening. See you at the Carriage House.

Board of Deacons

Kathleen Tilney, chairperson (281-1864)

Janet Barry (281-4549)

Joanne Neal (286-1408)

William Scott (286-2003)

Alan Stevens (286-9278)



Stewardship and Finance

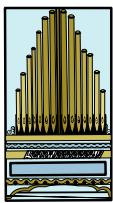
Elder John Deitz



The Old South Haven Church budget has three basic components – the general program and mission budget, the designated giving (and therefore restricted) budget, and the capital budget. This month's report summarizes the status of the general program and mission budget.

At the beginning of the year, the Session adopted a general program and mission expense budget of \$64,115. This budget pays for the expenses of a half-time minister, music and education programs, general mission and outreach, occupancy expenses (such as fuel and utilities, maintenance, and supplies), and judiciary fees (our assessments as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)). 75% of the income to support these basic activities comes from unrestricted contributions of individual members. The remainder comes from building use contributions (rent), fund raising, and two small endowments.

About \$5,300 per month of unrestricted income is required to break even. During the first five months of 2006, unrestricted income averaged \$5260 per month. It is important to note, however, that significant contributions from two families will not be available for the remainder of the year.



Music Department

Peggy Angus

The big news for Old South Haven right now is the organ. About a year ago I was given the O.K. to choose an organ committee and start the process toward getting our organ repaired. This has been a long drawn out process since we are dealing with very technical and specialized equipment and a big expenditure for our small church. It was my dream to have the organ totally restored but the cost of such a project would have run close to \$80,000. So I had to rethink my dream and concentrate on basic mechanical repairs.

I chose for the organ committee: Richard Thomas (without whose help I would have been adrift without a sail), Helen Altomare, Steve Welgoss, Cathy Kellogg, and Betty Gardner (one of our former organists). I wanted good representation from the congregation – the choir, the Session, and a former organist who, incidentally kept very good records of previous work done on the organ. I also requested assistance of Tom White, organist and director of music at Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church, to act as unofficial consultant; he has considerable experience with organ repairs. Having a consultant is sensible as it helps to avoid pitfalls and can answer many of the technical questions which we had.

My next step was to obtain proposals from three organ builders. I first contacted the Organ Historical Society (OHS) for their recommendations. The mission of the OHS is the restoration and maintenance of old tracker (mechanical) organs such as ours. Their members must adhere to definite standards of excellence. We received proposals from two of their recommended firms – S. L. Huntington and P. J. Murphy. In the meantime, I was introduced to Ed Odell who just finished work on the organ at St. Ann's (Episcopal) in Bridgehampton. He is reviving an old family firm, J. H. & C. S. Odell, originally established in 1859.

Betty invited us to meet at her house. We were so grateful to Betty to be able to have our meetings around her table. After reviewing all three proposals for total restoration, and realizing that this was not the way we would be able to go, we started making a "wish list." We went over which things absolutely needed to be done in order to bring the organ to a musically pleasant sounding instrument. This included repairing or replacing of anything broken or worn, but nothing cosmetic. Therefore, the facade will remain as is until such time as we can accumulate more money to refinish the pipes, at least.

Then began a long period of negotiating with each firm to bring their proposals more in line with what could be done on our budgeted amount. In the end the committee decided to go with the Odell firm.

Our next step will be to obtain a contract from Odell which will need to be approved by the Session, and then we will get a work schedule (starting time, etc.). The organ will be removed piece by piece and transported to the shop in East Hampton, Connecticut, for renovation. The entire process will take approximately five months and is estimated to cost about \$41,000.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to our small but dedicated choir. They have proven that size does not matter. They have worked hard and accomplished much and have made rehearsal time a pleasure for me. It's not all work; we enjoy the fellowship as well. This, and sharing The Good News in our music is part of what being a Christian is all about. Anyone who likes to sing is invited to join us for rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. Check with me before attending as we do have some Thursday's off.

A special Thank You needs to go out to Richard, who placed reflective tape on our steps leading to the organ/choir loft, thereby making them much safer. We also owe our thanks to Richard for coming early Sunday mornings to turn on the heat. It is many such acts of thoughtfulness which often go unnoticed or are

Principal funds for the organ restoration project come from a Bequest of the estate of Roger Kickerer, a member and elder of this congregation in the 60's and early 70's.

Building and Grounds

Elder Helen Altomare

Our church sign has been removed for repair and updating. It will be repaired and the information regarding the pastor and times of worship will be on vinyl so that they can be changed without repainting the sign.

We are in the process of getting estimates on updating electrical wiring in the sanctuary and providing better lighting for our parking lot and walkways.

I would also like to ask for volunteers to help keep our church and grounds clean. I was thinking of a monthly gathering, possibly Saturday morning, to accomplish this. Many hands make light work. Please call me at 289-6693 if you are willing to help.

Old South Haven Presbyterian Church
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