

Pastor's Corner

The Road Never Before Traveled



One of the adjustments I needed to make when I came to Brookhaven was to accept the fact that I would need to drive to any of the places I might frequent in either Brookhaven or Bellport. My car has now become accustomed to the routine drive down South Country Road for late morning coffee at Sugar Loaf or for shopping. My car has now become accustomed to the routine drive up South Country Road and west on Montauk to Station Road and then north to Royal Oak for 7 am breakfast. Sometimes I think I could put the car on automatic pilot for these roads so frequently traveled. Traveling roads that are familiar, routine, daily, makes navigating them fairly easy and leads to a well disciplined orderly life.

I find the images of the "road" and "traveling the road" to be most helpful in describing one's journey or pilgrimage through life. I'm speaking of the spiritual journey, of the journey in faith, where "trust" plays such an important part. All roads, including the road of life or the road of our spiritual journey is marked by curves, hills and valleys, smoothly paved or gravel top (or wash-outs), four-lane or narrow one-way, clearly marked or the unmarked. Over the span of years we develop driving skills that make it possible to stay on the road and keep in the right direction so that we may proclaim we are "masters of the road"

Several years ago Scott Peck wrote a book that became an instant best seller. It was titled "The Road Less Traveled". In that book, Scott, a psychiatrist with a distinctly religious point of view, spoke of the attributes and disciplines that make that travel rewarding and fulfilling. But in this Lenten Season I have

been thinking of people, even skilled drivers, who may find themselves on "The Road Never Before Traveled".

Maybe it's the road leading from a doctor's announcement to you: "Mr. X you have about six months to live." Or maybe it is the road leading from the death of one's spouse after a marriage of fifty-two years. Or maybe the road leading from one's employer announcing that the Company will close in 14 months, a company to which you have given thirty-five years of most dedicated service. Any of these circumstances may well put you on a road that you never traveled before, and on such a road one can easily experience grief, a sense of bewilderment, maybe anger, maybe fear. What permits one to keep traveling, even, on the road never before traveled?

I find guidance and solace in reflecting on that Road that our Lord was forced to travel, when, remaining true to his commitment to seek and follow God's will he found himself on that Road to Jerusalem marked by the desertion of his so-called followers, a trial and a sentence based on total misunderstandings of what he was about, and finally a Cross and his plea (which maybe all of us have muttered at some point in our lives) "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

But that was not his final word! Relying on the promise "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me." Lent is a time that calls us back to that great promise, that even when we travel that road never before traveled, we travel it not alone. Hallelujah. Amen

Pastor Tom Philipp

Member's Reflection

Alan Stevens

Joining a Christian church at age 44, after a 30 year absence, made me a "born again", or so I thought in 1985. My first church home was Bellport Methodist, then Christ Episcopal Church.

Following disagreements with a pastor in the first and a bishop in the second, in 1991 I found myself searching for a new faith community to alight in, and found it here at Old South Haven. What appealed to me was that Old South Haven stood for something. Injustice was named as such. Faith was something more than Sunday worship; it was speaking out Christ's message of love for all, and acting out that message in our daily living.

Sunday, March 11, I heard Pastor Tom speak of the need for our church, both Old South Haven and the institutional Christian church, to bear fruit; not just to be the greenery of life, but the substance that the greenery only decorates. It is the flower and then the fruit which I found at the corner of South Country and Beaver Dam, a discovery for which I shall ever be grateful.

[Pastor Tom's sermons are available in the Audio Library of the church's web site: <http://oldsouthhavenchurch.org>]

THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN THE PCUSA

Action at the last General Assembly of the PCUSA regarding the ordination of gay/lesbian/bisexual individuals to the office of minister, elder or deacon has raised more issues for the denomination than solved! Presbyterian Welcome and the Covenant Network, two advocacy groups within the denomination are hosting a special meeting in NYC, dealing with legal and polity issues, on Saturday, March 24.

The meeting will take place at First Presbyterian, 12th and 5th Avenue, from 8:45Am until 5:30PM. Pastor Tom will be attending along with several others from Long Island. He will report back of the highlights of this meeting.

Fiscal Matters

Richard Thomas, Treasurer

At the annual Congregational Meeting, the Financial Secretary presented the budget for the coming year. A budget is both a plan and a forecast. That is, based on the income and expenses that are forecast, a plan is presented showing the costs for the programs and needs of the church and what sources of income are available to fund them.

In 2006, the income to the church (that wasn't designated for restricted purposes) totaled about \$64,500. Our operating expenses were a bit over \$69,000, so we had to spend down over \$4,500 of our unrestricted savings from the past to make up the difference.

The situation looks much worse for 2007. The forecast is that unrestricted income will not be much larger than last year (about \$65,100 this year), but our expenses are expected to be over \$77,500.

Such a large imbalance between the cost of the needs of the church and the income to fund them will mean that we may have to take an additional \$12,400 from unrestricted savings. As we had only about \$21,000 left in unrestricted savings at the beginning of this year, something will have to change before the end of 2008.

[The operating budget is a forecast, so one doesn't know for certain what the operating deficit will be on December 31, 2007. It could turn out to be considerably less or considerably more than \$12,000. The Financial Secretary's budgets have generally been accurate to about 5% of the total amount. So there is an uncertainty of ±\$3800 in the projected deficit.]

What has caused this dramatic change in our financial situation?

There has been both a trend and some immediate causes. In general, the size of the congregation has gotten smaller, but the remaining members have been giving more. However, as our membership becomes smaller, at

some point one may lose a member or family whose contributions can not easily be replaced by the increased giving of those who remain. (Our little congregation is fortunate in having a very few member families who contribute large amounts to the church annually, so if one such family is no longer worshipping with us, as is the case this year, it can have a significant effect.)

Our cost for the services of a half-time minister (compared to the cost in 2005) has gone up also, and for two reasons. One is that in 2005 we were paying our pastor a salary that did not meet the standards set by Presbytery for a half-time pastor. The second is that the previous pastor was shared with Brookfield, so we received payments from the Manorville congregation for half the rental value of the manse and for half of the cost of fuel oil, water, and electricity for the manse.

Since it seems unlikely that we will soon have new families joining who will immediately decide to become very large contributors, or that the cost of providing for the services of a half-time pastor will change, the session is looking for entirely new ways of coping with our financial situation. The current fiscal difficulty will challenge us not only this year but for years to come. Some of the ideas being considered were presented in last month's newsletter.

It will take energy, intelligence, and imagination to find ways of maintaining Old South Haven as a viable and effective congregation, and it is an undertaking that must be taken up not just by our Session, but by every member and friend of the Old South Haven Church.

DEACONS

Kappy Tilney, President

On Sunday, March 25, 2007 at 5:30 PM, the Deacons ask that members and friends join them for supper at the Post Carriage House. Instead of the usual potluck format, we are requesting specific people to bring specific parts of the menu. Please join us for soup, salad and dessert.

2006 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Deacons thank the members of Old South Haven for their continuing generosity. Through that generosity, the Deacons' outreach capacity was increased.

During the year, cards, flowers and gifts were sent or delivered to members and friends. At Thanksgiving, two local families received food baskets with all the "trimmings". At Christmas, the "stockings" for the Brookhaven Town House was expanded to provide stockings (stuffed with several items) for the 182 residents. As in the past, the Deacons helped several local residents with utility bills, rent and groceries.

In the fall, the Deacons hosted a Potluck Supper.

2006 FOOD SHELF REPORT

During 2006, 353 food items and a \$25.00 supermarket gift card were donated to St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry. Also, a cash donation of \$35.00 was used to purchase some of the food items.

Any increase in donations would be deeply appreciated.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Darcy Stevens

We will be watching Al Gore's movie on Global Warming, "An Inconvenient Truth", at the potluck supper on Sunday, March 25. Between now and then, and during the movie, write down ideas and thoughts to share at our follow-up study on "A person of Faith and the Environment." Tentative dates for this study are Sunday, April 15 and Sunday, April 29. Also, OSHC will have a table or booth at the Earth Day celebration in Patchogue on April 14. To volunteer your ideas or person-power, talk to Darcy Stevens (631-286-9278, darcyhc@optonline.net) or Helen Altomare (631-289-6693, haltomare@netscape.net).

Janet Barry has volunteered to teach Sunday school for the next few months and has fun-sounding plans for an end-of-year Sunday school picnic/trip. Please plan on joining us. More news as plans firm up!

REACHING OUT

Thank you from MINISTRIES

Alan Stevens

Old South Haven has received a 'Thank You' letter from the The Ministries, acknowledging that \$496 was contributed by our members, through the Church treasury, to the ongoing work of this agency. Some of our members contributed directly to the The Ministries.

Monies donated help those in our area with such pressing needs as food, shelter and warmth. In addition, the Ministries offers both individual and family counseling. Seabury Barn, a project of the Ministries, provides a safe haven for youth who can not go home.

The Session of OSH recently took action to become a partner with a few other Presbyterian congregations in our area in both pledging monies from their church budgets, as well as, seeking Presbytery financial support for the ongoing work of this agency.

Alan Stevens serves as President of the Board of Directors and has been very active in securing monies for this ministry to continue. A Benefit Wine Tasting Fund Raiser for the Ministries will be held on Friday, March 30 from 7:00PM -9:30PM



Eagle Scout Project

John Morgan

My Eagle Scout project is called an "International Peace Sanctuary." This sanctuary has three parts: A pole, a bench and rocks. These three objects symbolize a deeper meaning. First, the pole, eight feet tall made of red cedar. The pole will have four signs in different languages with the Peace slogan "May Peace Prevail on Earth". The bench, made of pressure treated wood, will symbolize people of different ethnicities, religions and rival nations to encourage people to sit down and talk

in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church in Bellport. Admission is \$25.00, tickets available through Alan Stevens.

Our Packages to Afghanistan

Jason Neal has reported that over 40 boxes from various groups and individuals were sent to him after his request. At least eight of these came from Old South Haven. Jason indicated that three wives of military men contacted him after finding his name on our church website. Said Jason "That means people must really dig the church website! How wonderful!"

The project continues. Boxes can be sent to: SPC Inman, Brittain C.; BCO/2-508 PIR; FOB WARRIOR; APO AE. 09354

Habitat for Humanity

Joan Neal

The Habitat selection meeting was held Monday, March 3 at the Habitat office in Middle Island. Someone from Bellport was selected for a house and recently a home visit was made for a new family in Brentwood.

A Ribbon cutting Ceremony for the new houses is scheduled for sometime in April Perhaps we can present them with a "House Warming" gift from their friends at OSH.

ORGAN REDEDICATION SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Paul Richter, who was the organist at Old South Haven in 1963 while a student at Guilman Organ School in New York City, will return to Brookhaven to play an organ recital as part of the rededication ceremony on Sunday, April 22nd.

Mr. Richter has held music positions in Portland and The Dalles, Oregon, Patchogue, Takhi Thailand, Oxon Hill Maryland, and Washington DC. An accomplished musician and singer, he has sung with the Portland Symphonic Choir and the Coro Uomo Men's Choir. Paul currently studies organ under Dr. Jeannine Jordan in Portland, Oregon.

His recital will include works by J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, William Selby, R. Vaughan Williams, Flor Peeters, Powell Weaver, and Thomas Philander Ryder. The program will begin at 3:00pm with a service of hymns and prayers, the rededication, and brief comments about the Hinners Organ, its renovation by Odell Organ Company, the work of the organ committee, and the bequest of the late Roger Kickerer which made the renovation possible. The façade redesign is in memory of Thelma and Llewellyn Deitz, and James R. Greene II.



Joann Neal Honored

The Town of Brookhaven at its annual Women's Recognition Night honored fourteen women including our own Joann Neal.

She received her award for community service and her professional life. Cited was her early work with the Boys and Girls Club, the steel drum band, and her work with St. Christopher Otilie Family Service in Brentwood.

Congratulations Joann! We would also cite your heavy involvement in the life of this Congregation

MORNING WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Lay Leader</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
April 1	W. Scott	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
April 8	S. Moran	J. Neal	R. Thomas
April 15	C. Kellogg	L. Scott	H. Altomere
April 22	A. Wiswall	J. Barry	P. Light
April 29	K. Morgan	J. Deitz	A. Wiswall
May 6	W. Scott	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
May 13	C. Kellogg	S. Moran	N. Best
Mary 20	F. Decker	S. Welgoss	G. Decker
May 27	K. Organ	D. Jones	C. Kellogg
June 3	W. Scott	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
June 10	A. Wiswall	J. Neal	H. Altomere
June 17	C. Kellogg	L. Scott	P. Light
June 24	K. Morgan	J. Barry	A. Wiswall
July 1	W. Scott	L. Majowka	L. Majowka
July 8	A. Wiswall	K. Tilney	K. Tilney
July 15	C. Kellogg	J. Deitz	G. Decker
July 22	S. Moran	S. Welgoss	n. Best
July 29	K. Morgan	S. Moran	C. Kellogg
Aug 5	W. Scott	A. Stevens	D. Stevens
Aug 12	A. Wiswall	J. Neal	H. Altomere
Aug 19	C. Kellogg	L. Scott	P. Light
Aug 26	K. Morgan	J. Barry	A. Wiswall

If you have a conflict with your schedule, please call Ann Wiswall at 286-0384

PRAYER LIST

Jeffrey Glayzer as he continues his treatment.
Helen Starke who has a bout of pneumonia.

CALENDER

Wednesday, March 21	7:30 PM	Lenten Service Yaphank Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ralph Wright. Featuring instrumental music in which we will "make a joyful sound unto the Lord".
Sunday, March 25	10:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Morning Worship Pot Luck Supper Showing of the AI Gore Film "An Inconvenient Truth"
Sunday, March 25	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
Wednesday, March 28	7:30 PM	Lenten Service Middle Island Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 1	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 5	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service , Old South Haven Church
Friday, April 6	7:30 PM	Good Friday Service Bellport Methodist Church
Sunday, April 8	6:00 AM 10:00 AM	Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at the Bellport Dock EASTER SERVICE at Old South Haven Church
Saturday, April 14		Earth Day (Celebration to be announced)
Sunday, April 15	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Baptism of Michael Frankie Adult Study "A person of Faith and the Environment." Part 1. (see <i>Christian Education</i> , page 2)
Sunday, April 22	10:00 AM 3:00 PM	Morning Worship Organ Rededication (see <i>article page 3</i>)
Sunday, April 29	7:00 PM	Adult Study "A person of Faith and the Environment." Part 2. (see <i>Christian Education</i> , page 2)

4



Old South Haven Presbyterian Church
Corner South Country & Beaverdam Rds.
Brookhaven, NY
OldSouthHavenChurch.org
(631) 286-0542
info@OldSouthHavenChurch.org
Linda Scott, editor (631-286-2003)

PO Box 203
Brookhaven, NY 11719