

## Pastor's Corner

### God knows - Animals Matter



The July-August issue of OSH NEWS, with Catherine Kellogg's "Challenges" article and my comments on it, has led to conversations with a few readers. They have expressed implications of taking seriously its proposed agenda. These readers have put me in touch with relevant articles and advocacy groups, including groups right here on Long Island. I am most appreciative of this interest and concern.

Included in my Pastor's Corner was a suggestion that we should include in our Sunday worship schedule a Celebrate Earth Sunday and a Blessing of the Animals. Though few of our sister congregations have held a Blessing of the Animals Sunday, at least one of you wondered if this would fare well at Old South Haven. Perhaps we won't know until we try it!

I recently came across a website\* of a group named "God's Creatures Ministry", which has stimulated my thinking and concern regarding the animal kingdom. Commenting on the verse in Genesis, which has led to a "dominion over" attitude toward the earth and its other inhabitants, I discovered a most interesting connotation in the original Hebrew word which is translated as 'dominion.' Genesis 1: 26: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'"

Jan Fredericks argues that the word 'dominion' (in Hebrew

'yorade') means 'to come down to; to have communion with and compassion for.' Dr. Albert Schweitzer, in commenting on Psalm 145:9( which reads; "The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all His works") writes: "Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breath and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to humankind. Not until we extend the circle of compassion to include all living things shall we ourselves know peace."

"God's Creatures Ministry" is committed to spreading God's compassion to all He has made based on the Scriptures." Though it is a "Christian Ministry" it extends its resources to all. It goes so far as to state that "God created us to have a vegetarian diet," and speak out against the use of animals for "our entertainment, fashion, appetite and useless, torturous research."

Two recent events have brought the matter of cruelty of animals to public attention. Michael Vick is a highly paid NFL quarterback who was recently arrested and pleaded guilty to the blood sport of dog fighting. There are further allegations that he shot, hanged and electrocuted dogs that lost. He has had his defenders arguing that pit bulls have been bred over several centuries to fight and "that, after all, these are just dogs in a world where worse cruelties are suffered by humans (*Time Magazine*, Aug. 24, 2007) A second incident is that of a couple living in a mansion, who, recently experiencing serious financial trouble, had housed several dogs in unbelievable inhumane conditions.

For OSHPC to address the matter of care for animals is to follow in the footsteps of one of our early pastors. The Rev. Herman Daggett was installed and served as pastor of both the Church at Fireplace and at Middle Island from 1801 to 1807. Earlier, on September 7, 1791 he delivered an oration titled "The Rights of Animals" at Providence College (now Brown University) for his Master's degree. His address, later printed as a book (actually a 14 page pamphlet which became "the first book published on Long Island.") begins: "The design of my appearing in public, at this time, is to say a few things in favor of a certain class of beings, whose rights have seldom been advocated, either from the pulpit, from the stage, or from the press. I mean the 'inferior animals'. The cruelty, and injustice, with which this class of beings has been treated, by their boasted superiors of the human race, is too notorious to need a particular recital." (Rev. Daggett's oration will be posted on our bulletin board for your attention).

Perhaps being way before his time, Rev. Daggett made this bold pronouncement: "God has appointed to all his creatures, a certain sphere to move in, and has granted them certain privileges, which may be called THEIR OWN. If we judge impartially, we shall acknowledge that there are the RIGHTS of a BEAST, as well as the RIGHTS of a MAN. And because man is considered as the Lord of this lower creation, he is not thereby licensed to infringe on the rights of those below him, any more than a King, or Magistrate, is licensed to infringe on the rights of his subjects."

As we seek to make ecological concerns, including a concern for all of God's creatures, great and small, a priority in our life and ministry at Old South Haven, acknowledge that we stand in a rich tradition.

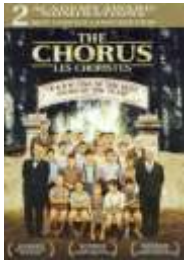
*I want to thank Richard Thomas for his research that led me to the oration of Herman Daggett*

\* [www.all-creatures.org](http://www.all-creatures.org)

## Fall Film Series Starts Sunday, September 16.:

We are trying something new -- a Film Series which I hope will present issues of faith and practice that are entertaining, approachable (watchable), and thought provoking. The movies will be projected on a large screen in the comfort of the Gallery. We will be serving popped corn and beverages.

The series opens this Sunday, September 16, at 7 pm in the Gallery with ***The Chorus (Les Choristes)***. Set in 1948, a professor of music becomes the supervisor at a boarding school for the rehabilitation of minors. What he discovers disconcerts him -- the current situation is repressive.



Through the power of song, he tries to transform the students. Nominated for Best Foreign Film

and Best Music at 2005 Academy Awards. This film may be appropriate for older youth (rated PG-13).

Planned for October is ***Central Station (Centro do Brasil)***. A dour old woman works at the Rio de Janeiro central station, writing letters for customers and mailing them. She hates customers and calls them 'trash'. The mother of a 9-year-old boy, who never met his father is sending letters to his father through the woman. When the mother dies in a car accident, the woman takes the boy on a trip to find his father. This film was shown at the Spring 2007 Port Jefferson "Festival of Films and Faith," of which the Port Jefferson Presbyterian Church is one of the sponsors.

In November, ***Iron Island (Jazireh ahani)*** -- In this 2005 Iranian film, squatters, mostly minority Sunni-Arabs in Persia, live on a mothballed oil tanker in the Persian Gulf. The children attend a school on board; men harvest scrap metal and old oil in the hull; women keep house and raise children. The Captain runs things with an iron hand. We follow a lad who rescues fish trapped in the hull, an old man who stares at the sun, an idealistic teacher, and the young Captain's assistant who has fallen in love with a young woman whose father wants to marry her to someone of means. What future has this sinking city?

And in December, ***Millions*** -- The UK is about to switch its currency from Pounds to Euros, giving a gang a chance to rob the poorly-secured train



## Board of Deacons

The Fellowship Brunch, held on August 12th, was a wonderful time for conversation and delicious food. Many thanks for the assorted array of tasty tid-bits!

Over the past few years, Ann Wiswall has compiled, notified and reminded people of their allocated tasks. I know the Deacons speak for the congregation when we extend heartfelt thanks to Ann for all her work.

In the future, the Deacons will be organizing the assignments (i.e. greeter, lat reader and coffee hour provider). If you would be willing to do any of the above, please contact Kappy Tilney @ 286-0024.

The Deacons have posted a Flower list in the Gallery. If there are some special person/persons or event that you would like to commemorate with flowers, please note the information on the sheet you will find on the bulletin board. Vases of assorted sizes are to be found on the top shelf in the kitchenette. The information that you provide will be noted in the appropriate Sunday's bulletin.

## Congregational Survey

The Session joins me in thanking those members who completed and returned the Church Survey Form. Surveys were sent to 29 adult members, one non-member and 4 teenage members. 22 adults and one teenager responded. The results were looked at during the Session Retreat in early August and will be used in formulating the Mission Study paper presently being developed.

It was obvious from the responses that prayerful attention was given to this assignment and reflected a love, a concern and helpful suggestions.

Pastor Tom

loaded with money on its way to incineration. But, during the robbery, one of the big bags falls literally from the sky on the playhouse of a 5-year old given to talking to saints. The boy then starts seeing what the world and the people around him are made of. Ethics, being human and the soul all come to the forefront in this film. This is a film well suited to the Advent season, and the final scenes take place during Christmas celebrations.

## PRESBYTERY VISIONING RETREAT

The Presbytery of Long Island is in the process of reshaping its structure to more adequately meet the needs of its congregations in this new century. It is desirous to hear from congregations and their members as this is undertaken.

On Saturday, September 22 from 9:30 am to 4:00pm a Presbytery-wide Visioning Retreat will be held at First Presbytery Church, Freeport. The invitation to participate states: "As Christians we are called, both individually and corporately, to further the coming of God's kingdom. Our understanding of that call and our perception of how we can respond to it will shape our work each year as the Presbytery of Long Island."

Time at the retreat will be given to worship, study, prayer, and fellowship. Together "we will seek to discern the movement of God's Spirit in the church, in the needs of the people within our Presbytery and in the needs of our neighbors near and far". Lunch is provided at \$8 per person.

Pastor Tom will be driving. Others wishing to attend are welcome to ride with him. (He even said he would buy lunch!)

## THE HUDSON VALLEY MULTI-FAITH ROUNDTABLE

The Rev. Ray Bagnuolo, who has played an active role in the More Light Church Network, is organizing a multi-faith roundtable. The event will bring clergy and people of faith together to create a network of supportive congregations and religious leaders for LGBT folk, and to move faith communities forward in eliminating all boundaries that prevent LGBT individuals from being fully welcomed into churches, temples and places of worship.

The Roundtable will take place on Sunday, September 30 from 2:30-6:30PM at Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Avenue in White Plains (914-946-1660). Ray is the Interim Minister at Palisades Presbyterian Church in Palisades NY. A flyer and more information are available online at [raybagnuolo.net](http://raybagnuolo.net).

## Pastor Tom's Busy October

Pastor Tom will be participating in three events in October which will take him away from Brookhaven but not on Sundays.

Thursday, October 11-Saturday, October 13. He will be attending Union Day/ Alumni Day at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. The keynote speaker on the 11th will be Jeffrey Sachs. Dr. Sachs is Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development at Columbia University, Director of the Earth Institute and special advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He is known as a visionary economist, savior of Bolivia, Poland, and other struggling nations, who will not settle for less than the global eradication of extreme poverty. Pastor Tom is on the Executive Committee of the Alumni/ae Council.

Wednesday, October 24 Thursday, October 25 (from noon to noon). Presbytery's Clergy Retreat at The Centacle in Lake Ronkonkoma. Pastor Tom heads up

the Planning Committee this year. Thursday evening he plans to attend a Benefit Dinner for the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center at Holmes. The dinner will honor and celebrate the life, work, and vision of Don and Mark Hostetter. Don was for many years the Center's Executive Director and Mark, his son, has been a benefactor. Dinner is in NYC,

Friday, October 26 Saturday, October 27. A Conference of Friends of Sabeel-North America to be held at Old South Church in Boston. Sabeel (Arabic for The Way) is a Jerusakem-based, ecumenical, international grassroots peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians that promotes nonviolence, human rights, international law, democratic principles and Gospel teachings on justice and peace-making. (Web site is [sabeel.org](http://sabeel.org) and for the North American chapter is [fosna.org](http://fosna.org)). The theme of the Conference is "The Apartheid Paradigm in Palestine-Israel: Highlighting Issues of Justice and Equality". The keynote address will be given by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## PEACEMAKING SUNDAY AND WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Peacemaking Sunday will be observed on September 30 and the Peacemaking Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, the following week, October 7.

The theme for the Peacemaking observance, Pastor Tom's sermon on the 30th, and the special offering is: "And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22:2).

This year Presbyterian congregations are asked to give all or part of their share to the denomination's AIDS work in Africa. A promotional piece states: "The voice of hope reflected in the Peacemaking Offering's theme is nowhere more urgently needed than among those nations whose peoples are struggling with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The tree of life that brings healing to the nations reminds us of God's far-reaching love to all the world's people. It also reminds us that peace cannot truly reign anywhere while millions are in need of healing and communities are on the brink of collapse."



During the worship services on Sept. 16 and 23, a 'moment for peace' will bring attention to this special need. We trust that all will do their best in contributing to this year's Peacemaking Offering. (Pay special attention to the Poster which is a picture of quilt art by Susan Barnes in which the faces of children emerge from the leaves of a tree)

Overnight Tuesday and Wednesday, Program and 3 Meals - \$75.00

Tuesday Program and Dinner - \$24.00

Wednesday 9:00 AM 1:00 PM, Program and Lunch - \$21.00

Scholarships available: Contact Alice Hild (516) 248-6145

Flier, registration form and directions are available on our Church bulletin board.

## Additional Resources

Catherine Kellogg has put us in touch with additional resources as we move forward on our commitment to environmental concerns. "Creation Care" is a magazine publication of the Evangelical Environmental Network. We will subscribe and issues will be available in the Gallery. There is also "The Evangelical Climate Initiative: Worship God. Care for His Creation". For a copy of their Principles on Global Warming Policy, go to their website [www.christiansandclimate.org](http://www.christiansandclimate.org).

We hope to establish a relationship with the Long Island Interfaith Network on the Environment, which is connected to "Green Faith" and Episcopal movement. We will continue to address things we can do as individuals and as a congregation. Keep us informed of publications and organizations with which you are familiar.

## L.I. Presbyterian Women

This fall there are two events scheduled for Long Island Presbyterian Women:

- Saturday, September 29 Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Southampton. The program offered is an interactive educational program entitled "In Her Shoes". The theme is domestic violence. Registration is at 9:30 AM and the 2007 Thank Offering will be received at the 10:00 AM Worship Service. The program concludes at 12:00 Noon at which time the women can socialize and enjoy lunch together. Bring a sandwich, beverage and desert will be provided by the host church.

- Tuesday, October 9 Wednesday, October 10. The 2007 Fall Retreat at Cormaria, retreat house situated on Sag Harbor Bay. The theme is "Choosing Thankfulness" and the leader is The Rev. Jeanne Baum. Check in time on Tuesday is 12:30 PM with program beginning at 1:00 PM. The program ends with lunch on Wednesday. Limit to 75 overnight guests. No limit on part-time guests.





## Music Department

On occasion I have referred to the fact that the church musician needs to know the congregation's philosophy of music. It is imperative so that both musician and congregation can co-exist happily. The September issue of The American Organist (the official publication of the American Guild of Organists) contained an article entitled, "The Music Philosophies of Martin Luther and John Calvin". I found it to be very interesting and would like to share a few highlights.

With the Reformation in 1517, a new style of music came into being. While the music of the Catholic Church had been mostly Plainsong and sung only by the priests, Luther introduced a hymn style known as Chorale, meant to include the congregation. These were written in polyphonic (many-toned) style for the choir to sing, while the congregation sang in unison. This is a practice still in use today, where the congregation sings the hymns in unison with the choir singing more detailed music (anthems, introits, etc.) These were originally sung unaccompanied until sometime after 1600, when the organ came to be used as accompaniment for the congregation.

John Calvin also recognized the need for congregation participation in the music. However, unlike Luther, Calvin only used texts found in the Bible, preferably

Psalms with no choir or instrumental participation. The Anglican Church

later adopted many of the practices of Luther and Calvin.

Luther's philosophy was that "Music is a gift from God, not men". He replaced the Kyrie, Gloria, and Credo with choruses to be sung by all believing, as Calvin did, that the music belonged to the people. Calvin said of the pope, "He has distorted the Psalms, which should be true spiritual songs, into a murmuring unto themselves, without any understanding." He further claimed that the papacy had degenerated to the point that not even the priests knew what they were singing. ("The Origins of Calvin's Theology of Music" Charles Garside, Jr.)

While Luther and Calvin differed on the textual content of the hymns, they were both concerned with what would be best musically and theologically for their congregations. During the Reformation, worshippers had to conform to the wishes of the church leaders. Today it seems that the church leaders are conforming to the needs of society. It is, after all, a different time.

In the end, what is important is whatever helps bring a person into a meaningful spiritual experience.

If anyone wishes to have the references for this information, I will be glad to provide them.

Agape, Peg

## "WE SING THROUGH THE CENTURIES"

On Sunday, October 14 we will have a different type of Worship Service. The service will be made up of the stories behind some of our hymns and gospel songs, beginning with some of the earliest and bringing us down almost to the present.

What a wonderful history of 'singing the faith' is ours. How indebted we are to the writers of verse and the composers of music that have enhanced worship through the centuries. Pastor Tom says he may even include a few that never made it into any hymnal!

### Morning Worship Assignments

Sept 16	Greeter: C. Kellogg Lay Leader: K. Tilney Coffee Hour: K. Tilney
Sept. 23	Greeter: A. Wiswall Lay Leader: S. Moran Coffee Hour: C. Kellogg
Sept 30	Greeter: S. Moran Lay Leader: F. Decker Coffee Hour: G. LaFace
October 7	Greeter: W. Scott Lay Leader: A. Stevens Coffee Hour: D. Stevens Communion: L. Majowka
Oct. 14	Greeter: S. Moran Lay Leader: J. Deitz Coffee Hour: P. Light
Oct 21	Greeter: K. Barry Lay Leader: J. Barry H. Altomare
Oct 28	Greeter: K. Morgan Lay Leader: S. Welgoss Coffee Hour: C. Kellogg

If you have a conflict with your schedule, please call Kappy Tilney at 286-0024.



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