## Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Anchored in Christ's Love Winter. 2009

# Pastor's Corner Lcí's Couní Our Síaii!!!



## **Pastor Tom Philipp**

In October we had the privilege, in conjunction with the Mid-Suffolk Parish, of hosting Dr. Magda Iskander, our Presbyterian Medical Missionary based in Cairo. Dr. Iskander lead an evening program in our Sanctuary. Later that month we hosted Julia Thorne, Immigration Issues Manager of our denomination. The program was held in Patchogue in the Methodist Church. The church is just one block from the scene of the murder of Ecuadorian Marcelo Lucero. (A thank you to Ann Wiswall for providing over night accommodations for Julia in her home.)

The presence of both of these women offered examples of persons working in our name and on our behalf in two very significant ministries.

Not long ago I visited the Riverside Church in New York City. As I read the back of the bulletin, I was impressed by the large staff employed by their congregation. Then I started thinking! Old South Haven Presbyterian Church has a large staff as well, though we don't list their names in our bulletin nor do we acknowledge them. Maybe we should! Their names, however, would fill page after page. Let me give the names and ministries of just a few of them.

Our Presbytery, together with the Presbyteries of New York City and Hudson River, operate the Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center at Holmes, N.Y. Rev. Peter Surgenor, a Presbyterian minister, is the Executive Director. His name should be on our staff list. His ministry is providing wonderful facilities and program in a ministry for us and on our behalf. My niece, Rachel Vione, is a representative from Long Island Presbytery serving on the Holmes Board of Directors.

Auburn Theological Seminary is located on the campus of Union Theological Seminary in New York City. It is the seminary of the 12 presbyteries located in our state. The Rev. Catherine Henderson, a Presbyterian minister, is President. Her name should be on our staff list together with the faculty of that institution. I am a graduate of both Union and Auburn. The Rev. Nancy Jennings is a representative from Long Island Presbytery serving on their Board.

The Long Island Council of Churches provides a host of ministries. These ministries include hunger and housing needs on Long Island, a ministry in hospitals and in jails, as well as being a partner in the Multi-Faith Forum. Rev. Thomas Goodhue is the Executive Director of LICC. His name should be on our staff list. Alan Stevens serves on the

# A Member's Reflection

Linda Majowka



I have been a member of Old South Haven Church since the 1970's. When I moved from Brooklyn to Long Island, I started looking for a church for my children and I to attend. Since Old South Haven was a Presbyterian church I decided to check it out and attended one Sunday morning. Rev. Charles Kellogg visited my home that coming week.

My son William was born in May, 1976 and had to have an operation a month later. I called the church to see if he could be baptized in the hospital before his operation. Cathy Kellogg called me back to say her husband was hospitalized but she had found another minister. Rev. Paul Allen from Bellport Methodist Church would come to the hospital to baptize William. William was baptized and he is now 33 years old, married and has his own child, William. In remembrance, Rev. Charles Kellogg passed away while William was in the hospital.

Because of Cathy's act of kindness during her time of stress, I continued to come to Old South Haven. I became an active member and have been a Sunday school teacher, Deacon and Elder, as well as typed the church bulletin each week for several years in the 1980's. My children all went to Sunday school and were confirmed at Old South Haven Church.

As many of you know, I also preached when our ministers have been away. I enjoy leading worship service.

My spiritual journey has been for most of my life and I believe that my faith is still evolving. I firmly believe in what Jesus actually preached -"you should love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Jesus also taught us to not to judge others and to love the strangers in our land. In my mind, that is what a true follower of Jesus does. I firmly believe that Jesus came to show us that God is a loving God and that God loves us.

In Romans 8:38-39, Paul writes, "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

However, there is something that can separate us from God's love. It is ourselves when we do not acknowledge or accept God's love.

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#### Board of Dcacons Kappy Tilney, President

Several local churches are coordinating a Thanksgiving Day Ecumenical Dinner at the Hagerman Fire Department. We hope to provide a traditional turkey dinner for people in the

community who will not be able to celebrate Thanksgiving with family.

Your Deacons are happy to participate and hope it will become an annual tradition.

There are several ways Old South Haven may help. Volunteers are needed to bake (pumpkin or apple pies, seasonal breads or muffins and cookies) as well as help at the firehouse on Thanksgiving Day (set-up, serving or clean-up). Monetary donations would, of course, be most welcome. If you would like to assist in any way, please call Kappy (286-0024).

Due to the congregation's generous giving, the Deacons donated \$200 to help with the cost of food and supplies.

THANKSGIVING DAY DINER November 26, 2009 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Meal 11:30 – 1:30) Hagerman Firehouse 510 Ralph P. Perry Drive East Patchogue, NY 11772

As Thanksgiving approaches, the Deacons are planning to donate Thanksgiving baskets to two local families. When making your Thanksgiving purchases, please consider purchasing some extra items (i.e. canned vegetables and yams, powdered potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, juice or rolls). Whatever you are able to contribute will be most helpful.

Our congregation will be stuffing and distributing 182 Christmas stockings to the residents of the Brookhaven Town House on Beaver Dam Road. Each year we try to think of useful items to put in the stockings. If you have any suggestions, please pass them along.

We will also be providing Christmas gifts and food baskets for several local families. In the spirit of the season, cards and flowers will also be sent or delivered.

Recently, the Deacons donated \$200 to Thursday's Child. The designated purpose was to assist one of their clients with the cost of furniture.

Thanks to your generosity, the Deacons are enabled to extend many helping hands.

We thank you and wish you a blessed Holiday season or as Tiny Tim observed, "God bless us, everyone"!

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#### Lets Count Our Staff - Continued from page 1

Council's Development Committee and I serve on the Personnel Committee.

There are many other ministries we support through our mission giving to agencies right here in the Mid-Suffolk area. They are a vital part of our ministry.

How many pages would we need if we listed all our Presbyterian missionaries serving around the world, all supported by the mission giving of individual churches?

#### Thanksgiving Observance

It has been customary to hold an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in one of the Brookhaven/Bellport churches on the Sunday just prior to the holiday. Pastor Tom is sorry to announce there is lack of support for such a service this year. As reported to him by Rev. Erik Rasmussen, "too many other events on church calendars". Pastor Tom feels this is just another "blow to any spirit of ecumenism in our area".

HOWEVER, we will have Thanksgiving Sunday on November 22 and incorporate into the service those

elements customary in our ecumenical service. Pastor Tom's sermon is titled: "Saying 'Thank You' and Saying It NOW". The scripture lessons will be Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 and Philippians 1: 1-11. Once again our communion table will be filled with the fruits and vegetables



of the harvest season and we will sing the traditional Thanksgiving hymns: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come", "We Gather Together" and "Now Thank We All Our God".

# "Why Christianity Must Change or Die"

Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong, Excerpt from Best Seller Book Shared by Kathy Kellogg

"If we can be willing to explore a different way of thinking about God, not as a person, but as the depth and ground of life itself, then the ethical task of the Church becomes quite different. Christian ethics are not found in a system of behavior control. They are rather found in a call to the fullness of life. The business of the Church is, therefore, not to judge life, but to enhance consciousness, to expose ignorance and prejudice, and to remove the barriers to life in all of its fullness. The Church's task is to assist its people in plumbing the depths of their own humanity, where mystery, being, and love are discovered, and to bring those qualities found in the center of life into the world. I name that center of life "God".

"This God is not a parent who will reward or punish me for my virtues or shortcomings. This God is rather a power, a presence that calls me into responsibility, adulthood and selfreliance, into living for others, into living richly, deeply and fully. Being a disciple of Jesus does not require me to make literalized creedal affirmations. It only requires me to be empowered by him to imitate the presence of God in him by living fully, by loving wastefully, and by having the courage to be all that God created me to be".

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How many pages would we need if we listed all of the persons involved in program areas of our denomination?

We have just come through our annual stewardship campaign and observed our annual Pledge Sunday. We are a small congregation that participates in a large ministry, a wonderful staff of hundreds who serve us and our sister Presbyterian congregations. Thank God for this vast ministry.

## Looking Ahead to Advent and Christmas

Once again we will coordinate Advent and Christmas bulletin covers with bulletin inserts and posters. Each week our bulletin covers will use portions of a beautiful stained glass window from Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Minnesota. The themes carried out in the inserts (each a four page reflection on art and scripture for worship and athome use) and in Pastor Tom's sermons are based on the opening words of the Gospel of John: Word, Life, Grace, Truth and Light. Each week we will light one of the four candles on the Advent Wreath: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, with the Christ Candle lit on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve we hold our traditional 11:00pm service of Lessons and Carols.

We are thankful that Peggy Angus will be with us as Guest organist. She and the Choir will enhance our worship with special musical selections.

## Advení – Chrisímas Calendar

WORD



Advent 1 November 28 "In the beginning was the WORD, and the Word was with God" John 1:1

Advent 2 December 6 "In him was LIFE, and the life was the light of all" John 1: 4





### GRACE

Advent 3 December 13 "From his fullness we have all received, GRACE" John 1:16

#### TRUTH

Advent 4 December 20 "Grace and TRUTH came through Jesus Christ" John 1:17





### LIGHT

Christmas Eve December 24 "The LIGHT shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not did not overcome it"

Advent and Christmas is a special time at Old South Haven.

## **Personnel - Organis**í

Darcy Stevens (631) 286-9278 darcyhc@optonline.net

Many thanks to Peggy Angus who has been filling in as Organist/Choir Director since Danny moved on to a larger church. The search is in progress for a permanent organist. We have spoken to several people but as of this writing have not hired anyone yet. If you know of an organist or of someone who may be a good contact, please speak with Darcy.

# Christian Education

Darcy Stevens (631) 286-9278 darcyhc@optonline.net

Sunday school started Nov. 7 after an enjoyable fall sports season. Children 3 years and older are welcome to join us. We will meet in the Carriage House after the Children's sermon and close at the end of worship service.

There will be no Sunday school on the first Sunday of each month so that we can all share Communion together.

We will all miss Jaylyn, who has recently moved to Philadelphia. She and her buddy Jack have been the shining lights of Sunday school for the past 3 years. We wish her the BEST!

### Music Department

Peggy Angus (516) 729-3891

Once again, we are shifting gears as we search for a new Music Director. In the meantime, I am happy to fill in.

The Choir is currently preparing a traditional Thanksgiving anthem, "We Plow the Fields and Scatter".

We are also working diligently on Advent anthems. The Choir will be singing each Sunday during Advent, which begins Nov. 29th. Listen for a traditional Pachelbel/Bach piece, a beautiful arrangement of "People, Look East" and two contemporary pieces in classic style. In a few weeks, we will begin rehearsing music for Christmas Eve.

For anyone who would like to join us, rehearsals are each Sunday after Coffee Hour. We desperately need Tenors! Ability to read music is a requirement. Please contact Pegg.

## Poem Shared

Ann Inoue, a visitor with us, shared the following poem by George L. Bell in a letter to Pastor Tom in response to his "Those Discards" column in the Summer issue.

The cloth was old Worn to valueness Frail to uselessness Ripped and cut to threads Ready to be thrown out To be buried in the Dump Or burnt into smoke. Yet I took it Joined it with other discards Wove it into intertwining patterns And made it into a sturdy rag rug And I thought about The God who loves the discarded And even the rejected.

## **Fellowship**

Ann Wiswall (631) 286-0384

#### **Advent Brunch**

As we enter the Christmas Season the Fellowship Hostess Committee is planning a Sunday Brunch for

December 6th. Instead of our regular Coffee Hour on that day. we will meet in the Carriage House right after Worship for a light meal. Everyone attending the morning Worship service is invited. Brunch will be served between 11:15 am - 12:15pm. No need to bring food - just come and enjoy fellowship!



#### Tree Trimming, Stocking Stuffing

On the afternoon of **December 20th**, church members will meet to trim the Christmas tree and stuff stockings with gifts for the residence of the Adult Home. Details for this happy and cooperative effort will be announced.

#### . . . . . . . . . . . . . **Church Calendar**

**Betty Gardner** (631) 286-1396 gardner7@optonline.net

Not sure when something is happening? Check the regularly updated church calendar at http://OldSouthHavenChurch.org. Betty Gardner maintains

this helpful resource. Please make sure you inform her of scheduled events.

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#### **Morning Worship Assignments**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	Lay Leader	Coffee Hour
15-Nov 22-Nov 29-Nov	Sunday School H. Altomare J/E Morgan	S. MacKay S. Moran J. Neal	L. Scott C. Kellogg N.Best
6-Dec 13-Dec 20-Dec 24-Dec 27-Dec	W. Scott K. Barry Sunday School J. Neal J/E Morgan	L. Scott J. Barry B. Mullahy L. Majowka	D. Stevens A. Wiswall L. Majowka J. Deitz K. Tilney



South Country and Beaverdam Roads (Mail: PO Box 203) Brookhaven, New York 11719 Telephone: 631-286-0542 Email: ContactUs@OldSouthHavenChurch.org

Rev. Thomas J. Philipp, Minister

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

The Old South Haven film series is the 2nd Sunday evening of each month. Most of the films we show are films recommended by members and friends of the congregation. The public is invited. Many of the films are of subjects not usually found at local commercial theaters. There is no charge for these films; even juice and pop corn are provided.



December 13, 7:00 pm: "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.

January 10, 2010, 7:00 pm: "Amazing Grace." The story is set in 18th century England, William Wilberforce is only 21 years old when he's elected to the British House of Commons. He comes with many new and radical ideas, mostly about slavery. He says slavery is wrong, which is not the accepted idea at the time. John Newton (author of the hymn "Amazing Grace") is Wilberforce's best friend. Lord Charles Fox holds quite a bit of sway, since he is a noble, and Wilberforce tries to get him to



come to his side. Wilberforce gets a freed slave on his side. Olaudah Equiano, and helps him to write a book describing his experience as a slave. This book becomes a bestseller, and helps wake the people of England up to the horrors of slavery.



February 14, 7:00 pm: "For My Father." Tarek, a young Palestinian man blackmailed into a suicide mission in Tel Aviv, is given a second chance at life when the fuse on his explosive vest fails to detonate. Forced to spend the weekend in Tel Aviv awaiting its repair, Tarek must live amongst the people he was planning to kill. To his surprise he connects with several Israelis on the outskirts of society, including the beautiful

Keren, who has cut off contact with her Orthodox Jewish family. With nothing to lose, an unlikely love blooms between these two isolated and damaged individuals, raised to be enemies. Spending this time with Keren and his new friends, Tarek discovers the spark of life returning to fill his soul. But when the weekend ends. Tarek must make the decision of his life. Director Dror Zahavi is not interested in politics, but rather in the strength of love and the power of human relationships, even under the most extreme and trying circumstances.

