

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

July-August 2016

Here's Our Mission

I heard about this guy who read a recent statistical study reporting that most accidents occur within two miles of one's home—so he moved. I might add, not a very brilliant decision.

On a more serious note, indeed, statistical studies can be very helpful when approaching, planning and executing a task. However, numbers alone cannot get the job done. It is essential that the data be given a vehicle by which it can be effectively used to reach a proposed objective.

Obviously, or perhaps not so obvious, the church's objective is to carry out the Lord's Great Commission. This "commission" can be found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 28 beginning at verse 18.

Jesus basically tells us that He has given us the authority to "GO" and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey the Word of God.

For me, as a person familiar with carrying out missions in the military—I find this mission very assuring in that it is accomplishable. Why? Well, for one—just like in the military, Jesus commissions us with

authority to carry out the mission. So we do not have to question whether or not it is possible. And that mission is to make disciples.

So what is a disciple anyhow? Just out of curiosity, I

discovered that the word "disciple" is mentioned 261 times in the four Gospels and Book of Acts.

Therefore, one would think it must be pretty important.

I guess if Artaxerxes or Belshazzar or Nebuchadnezzar were as important they would be mentioned at least a hundred times—but they are not.

Continued on Page 2

Go
THEREFORE AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations...

MATTHEW 28:19, NRSV



WORSHIP IN JULY-AUGUST

July 3—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 30, Galatians 6:7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 82, Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

July 17—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

July 24—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 85, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 11:1-13

July 31—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 107:1-9, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

Aug. 7—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

Aug. 14—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

Aug. 21—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 71:1-5, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

Aug. 28—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Psalm 81:1, 10-16, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

Circle of Concern

Bereavement:

The Edwards family.

For Guidance and Healing:

Steve Rea, Liza Burell, Ron Jones, Bruce Kirschner, Kathy Maier, Adrian Murphy's mother, Theresa Lindsay, Sean Abrams, Mark Doucet, Anita Bragg, Tim O'Connell.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Frances Breen.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing

Care Facilities:

Geri Sheridan in Sunrise Senior Center, 320 Patchogue-Holbrook Rd., Holbrook, NY.

John Vander Zalm in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Alice Zahnd in Gurwin Jewish Nursing Facility, Commack, NY.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Waverly Avenue, Holbrook, NY.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Welcome Pastor Chuck

We warmly welcome to the United Methodist Church of Patchogue, Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara and his wife, Myong Cha Ferrara.

Dr. Ferrara, who prefers Pastor Chuck, was appointed to our church by Bishop Jane Middleton in April and he and Myong Cha will begin their community with us on July 1. He comes to us from Bellmore United Methodist Church.

On July 3, Pastor Chuck will preach on Luke 19:1-11, 16-20, using the theme "Sent Into a Broken World With a Message of Hope".

Our Mission (From Page 1)

The word disciple in New Testament Greek simply, but profoundly, means to be a student or pupil or apprentice of a teacher. And for the purpose of the Great Commission—that teacher is Jesus.

Thus, we are commissioned to not only help individuals come into the knowledge of redemption and salvation through surrendering their lives to Christ—but also assisting them in growing in their faith and Christlikeness through the various spiritual disciplines of the Church. Then, that disciple can go and make other disciples. Yes, we are reproductive.

Back to the statistical studies and their application with regards to the Great Commission. In April when I knew I was going to be appointed as the pastor of the Patchogue United Methodist Church I did a study, with a little assistance of a colleague, of the demographics of the village of Patchogue.

What I discovered was quite fascinating. I wanted to know how many deliverable postal addresses were within certain radiuses of our church. Statistically, each address will most likely have two to four residents; therefore, the following numbers can be multiplied times two, three, four or more.

Within a quarter of a mile of the doorsteps of the church are 4,398 deliverable addresses. Within a half mile, 7,458. Within a one mile radius, 10,039. And, if we included all thirty-six postal routes in Patchogue, the number is 17,316.

Now, what that told me is that there are a whole lot of people just outside the doors of our church. The question is, "What do we do with the data?" And even as I pose the question I can hear the voice of Jesus saying, "GO!"

When Peter stepped outside of his comfort zone and the walls of the upper room, he literally led thousands to Christ. Peter heard the command to "GO!"

My friends, as I prepare to join my new church family in Patchogue, I so look forward to working with each of you so that loving people will become disciples of Jesus and, yes, build up our congregation. I know I am about to join a great team—and I love teamwork because that is where the church receives its greatest return.

I truly believe that some of those nameless souls living in those postal zones will one day become part of our fellowship. In fact, I am convinced of it!

As we especially remember and honor the great 225 year history of our church and stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us—God wants to encourage us that our best days are ahead—to which I join you in saying a resounding, "AMEN!"

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

July & August Birthdays

July 15 Lynne Rice

July 30 Stephanie Wehner

Aug. 22 Sasha Kratz

Aug. 25 Jacob Miller

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	2 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
3 10 a.m.—Communion Worship 11:30 p.m.—SPRC 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF	4 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 p.m.—AA	5 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	6 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	7 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	8 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	9 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
10 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.—Finance 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	11 7:00 p.m.—AA	12 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	13 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	14 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	15 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	16 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
17 10 a.m.—Worship 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME Service	18 7:00 p.m.—AA	19 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	20 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	21 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	22 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	23 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
24 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.—Trustees 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	25 7:00 p.m.—AA	26 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	27 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	28 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	29 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	30 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
31 10 a.m.—Worship 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME Service				AUG 25 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner		

Seventh In Our History Series

Praising Men

Due attention should be given to our men throughout our church history. From 1795 to 1914, the men's work accord-

ing to our records, was primarily in leading Bible classes. About 1895, various men started the Church Brotherhood and they met bi-monthly.

They helped with carpenter work, other manual tasks, suppers, etc. Arthur Lewis was the first president but it was in existence only a few years. Then in 1914 they organized as the Men's Assembly. In 1954 they became the Methodist Men of the Methodist Church of Patchogue.

Their motto was "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only".

When our church united with the Brethren church, we became known as the United Methodist Church, and, therefore, the Charter for the United Methodist Men was issued in June of 1968. There were 50 charter mem-



Palm Sunday Breakfast, 1994



Church Picnic, 2003



Yard Sale, 2010

bers in that organization. Emerson Bransford was the President, followed by Lewis Brunner and Philip Meany.

On and off, since 1972, the men have been loosely organized, joined forces/overlapped with the

Himander group, which stands for Him and Her. They sold wreaths at Christmas time and the men from that group remained active along with the trustees and valuable volunteers in being "the doers".

Our United Methodist Men have sponsored Scoop Dinners, Palm Sunday Breakfasts, and have been the movers and shakers in organizing and running our church picnics.

One family, including former president, Robert Prince, organized and held St. Patrick's Day dinners for years with

Mom, Marge Prince. Bob also has sponsored Easter plant sales.

Al Halliwell, Emerson Bransford, Ted Davies, Dave McKendrick, Dave Hollowell, Bob Rogers, Steve and Kevin Rice, George Roessler, Bob Krawczyk and Gary Graves spent much valuable time repairing and refurbishing our building or grounds. Jerry Flood was diligent with security. Bruce Kirshner ran our Coffee Houses. Jim Miller makes coffee and secures the doors every Sunday, as well as managing the food pantry. Paul Rice assists in the kitchen on Sundays. Ed Klingel serves as the head of Trustees.

George Hoag, Conrad Queen, and Jim Graham manage the sound and video system in the sanctuary. Steve Shadbolt and Bill Loris add their talents cooking for Wesley Dinners. Pete Halliwell assists with church dinners and sings in the choir. Dave Hollowell, Jerry Alt, Carlton Browne, Ernest Ikpe, Charles Magill, Jim Miller and George Roessler are ushers on Sundays.

So, let's hear it for the men! Without them, we would not have our present beautiful church.

—Wendy Hollowell, Historian

Magazines Wanted

So, those magazines that come into your house each month and maybe already have piled up, what to do with them. Dave Hollowell would like to collect them and donate them to local adult homes. He asks that they be in good condition and of fairly recent vintage. An easy way to make some lives better.

33 Ordained, Commissioned at Hofstra

The New York Annual Conference commissioned, recognized, or ordained 33 individuals on June 11 at Hofstra University in what Bishop Jane Allen Middleton called an “historic ordination service.”

Four of the clergy candidates had come out as gay in an open letter to the United Methodist Church just days before the 2016 General Conference last month. Rev. Elyse Ambrose and Rev. Lea Matthews were commissioned as provisional deacons, Rev. Bruce Lamb as a provisional elder, and Rev. Alex da Silva Souto was ordained as an elder in full connection.

Middleton, who was presiding over her last annual conference before returning to retirement, was visibly emotional as she introduced guest preacher, Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, episcopal leader of the California-Pacific Conference.

“She is a prophet who speaks truth to power,” said Middleton. “I see her as the conscience of the Council of Bishops.”

“What a joy it is to be with the mighty New York Conference,” Carcaño said as she began. “What a deep love your bishop has for you . . . Just as she stepped up to care for you, all of us should do likewise.”

Carcaño challenged the gathering to consider the opportunities that are lost to share God’s love when discrimination of any kind gets in the way.

“The UMC does go out into the world in the name of Jesus,” she said. “But today it’s not as clear as it could be . . . or as simple minded as it ought

to be.”

“It’s a major issue whether LGBTQI people should be a part of the church, but it’s not the only issue,” Carcaño said. “Some people are not all that sure racial-ethnic people belong in the church either.”

Our discrimination may be thoughtless or unintentional, “but it is still deadly,” Carcaño said. “We don’t want things to change, even if that would make space for others. God forbid that someone who doesn’t look like us comes and takes our place, takes our pew, or our place at the table of the Lord.”

She admitted that she sometimes doubts if the UMC can really go out and follow the path of Jesus to make new disciples for the transformation of the world.

“But has faith not taught us that Jesus is God among us? We can go to the edge to doubt but Jesus always pulls us back to the center. We can doubt ourselves but we should never doubt Jesus.

“Let us remember the joy our salvation . . . let us go to all who hope and hurt,” Carcaño concluded.

Following the service, Rev. William Pfohl, chair of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, said he was humbled by the proceedings.

“We asked the Lord of the harvest for fit, faithful and fruitful laborers for His fields. God sent them, and God will bring to completion the work that God has ordained.”

Those recognized in the service in addition to Souto, Lamb, Ambrose, and Matthews were:

Licensed local pastors Patricia A. Chuppe, Parker H. Prout, Kathleen

Reynolds, Bonnie Jean Snyder, and Ross Topliff.

Provisional deacons Janet Lelieth Brown Cox and Maria Pia M. Seirup.

Provisional elders Carol Ann Bloom, Dong Hyun Choi, Susan Goodman Chupungco, Wendy Camille Paige, Angela Marie Redman, Paul Smith, Jody Spiak, and Elon J. Sylvester

Ordained deacon David Joseph Clegg

Ordained elders David Benjamin Collins, Gia Lynn Hall, Lori Denise Hartman, Miyoung Kang, Roslyn Lee, Won Tack Lee, Sung Min Moy, Carole Angela Paynter, Todd Raymond Pick, Matthew C. Schaeffer, Marva Dianne Henry Lucetta Usher-Kerr, and Julia Weidemann Winward.

Elder in full connection Richard N. Hayes

During the clergy session earlier in the week, questions had been raised about the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the eligibility of four of the candidates. A decision on a question of law was requested from Bishop Middleton.

Middleton responded on June 10 that it would be improper for her as bishop to make any substantive decisions of law on the questions.

“The proceedings and procedures of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry are not subject to review by the powers and authorities granted to bishops by our church’s constitution,” she said in a statement. She added that her written response to the request for a decision of law would be issued and published on the New York Conference web site within the 30-day period allowed by the Book of Discipline.

—Joanne S. Utley, NYAC, The Vision

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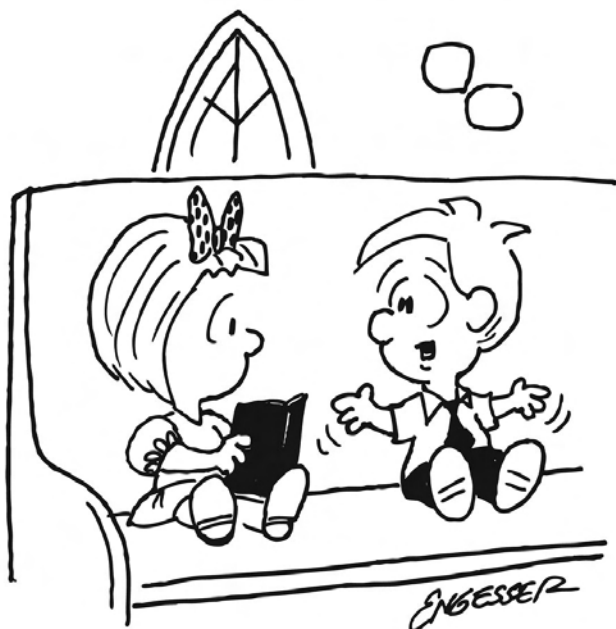
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The deadline for the September issue
of **The Link** is **August 19**.
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Don't Forget Your Pledge

A Note About Restoring Hope

Our Restoring Hope capital campaign was completed several years ago but funds may continue to be contributed. All Restoring Hope contributions go to the Trustees who have continuing building expenses but no other revenue source. \$500 a month in Trustee funds go to pay off our boiler loan. Contributions can be made to either "Restoring Hope" or "Trustees".



"If we're all dust, why take a
bath before the service?"

After Hate, Orlando Church Offers Hope

Violence and hate are not the end of the story.

Members of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, a gay friendly congregation in Orlando, demonstrated this truth after a brutal attack on a gay nightclub, which left at least 49 dead and 53 wounded.



Many in the 4,500-member congregation spent Sunday

waiting anxiously to learn if they had lost loved ones in what many are calling the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. That did not stop them from doing good.

The congregation already had scheduled its monthly blood drive for the day. By noon, the church had a three-hour wait of people eager to give of themselves to help the injured. By the afternoon, more than 350 people from the community and church were in line. Community restaurants and stores sent food and water to support those trying to do something to make a difference.

In short, the church lived out the sermon of lead pastor, the Rev. Jennifer Stiles Williams.

"As the news grew of the scope of the tragedy, we changed sermons to include the power of sowing seeds of God's love extravagantly, with great abandon in order to change the world," she said. St. Luke's also held a

special prayer service on the evening of June 12.

When it comes to how the church should be in ministry with LGBTQ individuals, United Methodists do not speak with one voice. They do share a horror at violence and a faith in God's mercy.

United Methodists from across Florida plan to meet in Orlando on June 16-18 for their annual conference session.

In a statement, Florida Area Bishop Kenneth Carter Jr. expressed his hope that "we can discover creative, pastoral and grace-filled ways to bear witness to all—including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons — that together we are God's beloved children."

He later added that the Florida Conference has pastors and lay leaders who already are immersed in ministry with the LGBTQ community, both within and beyond United Methodist churches.

"In God's providence many of these deep relationships exist in the Orlando region. So we minister from credible and established relationships with people we already know and love."

The Rev. Bob Bushong, the superintendent whose district includes Orlando, shared on Facebook his prayer that people respond "out of a sense of being united as the human family made up of multiple faith perspectives, of differing sexual orientations and races and cultures, of opposing political perspectives."

He told United Methodist News Service he expects annual conference will include a focus on the tragedy.

"Sometimes a tragedy brings together people who aren't together otherwise," Bushong said. "And that's what I think a lot of us hope for."

Williams encourages United Methodists in the wake of this act of hate and terror to "be hope."

"Be present with people with love, and active ways of offering support and encouragement," she said. "Find ways to sit at the table with people who are different and hold holy conversations that speak grace. Start speaking up against violence and bullying toward people who are different."

—Heather Hahn, UMNS

Becoming The Person God Created You To Be

Whenever clergy go to a new church, we need to reinvent our ministry according to the context in which we now serve. At the same time, some church members will invariably seek to remake us into the pastor they are hoping we will become for them. I've learned the hard way that I can only lead effectively when I am authentic, and I can only be authentic when I know who I am and who God wants me to become.

I remember being appointed to a large church fairly early in my ministry and asking myself, "Why me? I'm not a city person. I don't come from wealth. I'm not well-versed in the finer points of etiquette. What can I offer?"

Continued on Page 8

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 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
 Hearing assistance provided



Becoming The Person (From Page 7)

A wise friend said to me, “Laurie, just be yourself. Remember, your congregation is made up of people with the same hopes and dreams that you have. Just be you, and you’ll make out fine.”

In the end, isn’t that what God asks of each one of us? Spiritual growth is in large part a journey toward knowing not only who God created us to be but who God is calling us to become.

At a transition point some years later, I was attempting to discern my future in ministry. After several months of being stuck, I heard a clear word from God, “What you end up doing and where you end up serving

is not nearly as important as who you are becoming.”

How can we continue to “become” as God’s beloved children?

Be a continuous learner. Read, listen, think critically, and engage in holy conversation.

Be self-aware and transparent. Take time for prayer and self-examination, and be willing to change.

Take regular time away so that you can regain perspective.

Seek honest feedback from others so that you can grow in skills, emotional intelligence, and grace.

Don’t cling to who you were in the past, but empty yourself and seek to be transformed into the person God hopes you will become in the future.

For many years I had a painting in my office with these words from the 20th century Swiss theologian and Catholic priest Hans Urs von Balthasar: “What you are is God’s gift to you. What you are becoming is your gift to God.”

—Laurie Haller, UMNS

Correction

It is not true, as a reprinted article in the June **Link** indicated, that the Methodist Church bans non-celibate clergy. The ban applies only to those in same sex relationships. Thanks, Rev. Tom Goodhue, for your concern.