



TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

July-August 2013

Edited By George Hoag

Stay With Us This Summer

At last summer is here. I want to take this opportunity, to let you know how much fun and blessings we have shared together here at The United Methodist Church of Patchogue. Now that you're all ready for summer, I want to also remind you that we hope to continue to see you at church. Now, if you're going out on vacation that's fine but don't forget us because we certainly want to make you part of our summer here at our church. It goes without saying, that we need your support and contributions especially throughout the summer months. As you all know, we continue to open our doors during the summer with outreach services to the community. We also hope to continue to see you all at our wonderful Sunday Worship Services. Summer is indeed a great season for most of us, desired and well awaited. The mission of the Patchogue United Methodist Church does not pause or slow during any part of the year. With that in mind, I would like you to consider the importance of your continued involvement and participation in all the events and activities of the church. Our church as well as many other churches in the United States is undergoing a lot of financial stress. With that in mind let me just remind you that we are the ones called to continue to keep our church mission

Worship In July-August

July 7—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez. *The Transforming Power of Christ*, 2 Kings 5:1-14, Galations 6:1-16.

July 14—Lay Speaker Tom Bracken, *So Easy...So Hard*, Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Luke 10:25-37.

July 21—TBA, Psalm 52, Luke 10:38-42.

July 28—TBA, Genesis 18:20-32, Luke 11:1-13.

August 4—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *We Can Change Thanks To Christ*, Psalm 49:1-12, Colossians 3:1-11.

August 11—Guest Speaker Rev. Glenn Adone, Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16.

August 18—Lay Speaker Barbara Becker, Isaiah 5:1-7, Hebrews 11:29, 12:2.

August 25—TBA, Jeremiah 1:4-10, Hebrews 12:18-29.

going forward. With your presence, your gifts as well as your much-needed financial support, we have no doubt that our church will continue to bless our lives, this community, and will continue to reach and touch countless people for many years to come. So again, if you are going out on vacation this summer, Great! Have fun, but don't forget us here at your beloved church the church of friendly people. The United Methodist Church Of Patchogue counts on you and so does God.

—**Blessings, Pastor Sanchez**



Circle of Concern

For Guidance:

Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Rose Conti, Lisa Prince, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Sofia and her family, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Carlos Alvarado, Tim, Paul, Christine, Carol Moore, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell, Linda, Stephen Martin, Purificato Family, Ashley Lauren, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, Alicia Evans, Debbie Jemma, Barbara, Katie, Anna, Suzanne, Amanda Garcia, Doris May, Margaret, Lois, Laurie, Bonnie Smith, Debbie Turpeau, Julio, Lisa, Paul Walkawitz, Debbie, Tom Kerr, Laura Jacobs, Barbara Jehle, Elise Gavrock, Steve, June Barile, Luke Gonzalez, Raymond and Randy Prince, the Elam Family, Paula Rowe, Jennifer Femister and family, Joann Henn, Steve McCarthy, Bruce Kirschner, Elaine and family, Lillian Aparicio, Marge Prince, Stephen, Rich Azzopardi, Carolyn Seus, Rosemary Swartz, Joe Tucker, Kevin Stieger, Melanie Schnieder, Connie Castogua, Marybeth Losch and family, Joan Curtis' sister, Michael Emmel, Joseph Emmel, Kim Kluge, Emily Zeh, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Jody, Victor Levine's father, Henry Prince, Caleb Edward, Ryan Cullin, Sanborn Family, Lisa, Manzolino, Donna Horoski, Mia Heyliger, Andrew, Caleb, Susan, Ashley's baby, Sharon and Thomas, the Robins Family, the Ikpe Family, Rosie, Lacey, Elba Roblen, MaryEllen, Raquel Miller and Ginny Tatem, Dean Allen, Joe Nesfield, Donna Lesparance, Swan Family, Watson Family, Cheryl, James Haywood, William Higby, Mark, Jennifer, Dean Monaco and Laura MaGill and Laura Diamond.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Debbie Fiore, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, Maureen Grippi, Debbie Turpeau, Rich Kaufold, Michael T. Battaglia, Andrew Wittman, Jr., Al Monteverdi, Henry Ohlsen, Carolyn Venator, Gladys Messias, Laura Magill, Kent Turchaniun, Erin Purce, Henry Prince, George Russler, Pasquale Arpaio, Waldon Scott, Trudy Ann Smith, Margaret, Louis Casaccio and Jhara Tumm, Jerry Lamagna, Lance Marques, David Crescent, Liz Key and Florence Carde.

These at Home:

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea

Sanchez, Mary Jones, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick, Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Sandy Burrell, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, the Moultrre Family, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Muriel Vilar, Guillermina Alverio, Catherine Interrante, Beth Widera, Marie Cirillo, Bob Ruggiero, Pat Addison, Don Wilson, Pat Q. Bayne, the McCarthy family, Mike Battaglia, Al Montverdi, Janet Monteverdi, Paula Rowe, Albert Eid, Thomas, Andrew Brand, Ted Davies, Bob DeLaVergne, Margaret Mauck, Judy Hester, Pat Theobald, Elaine, Peter Dastis, George Hoag, Janice Hofman, Dean Monoco and the Crecent Family.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY.

Esther Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gozzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY 11772 Room 78D, 631-289-3150.

**Make your Prayer Request
on line at
PatchogueUMC.Org**

Remember
the Church
in Your Will

The deadline for contributions to the September edition of **TheLink** is August 16. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Lift up your church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

LESSONS ALONG

the Way

May God's peace be with you! The subject—no, the starting point—tonight is prayer.

It's "tonight" because I'm starting to write on Monday, June 10th at 9:30 PM, and I just got walloped with this one about two hours ago. And it's "prayer" because it happened over in the church office, where I was doing my small part of our Monday night prayer ministry. You might wonder why the prayer ministry is appearing in my column instead of in Stewardship. Actually, I expect it will appear there as well, in another page or two. But right here and now I want to tell you about something extraordinary, something that I learn more about every week: the incredible power of prayer.

Now, before you let out a big "Well, duh!", please know that I am referring to the power of what it does to, for, and in the one doing the praying. I'll let you in on a little secret: I don't feel very confident in my praying. I know about the power of prayer, and I know the format of a number of prayers (for example, I can tell you the five parts of a Collect). The class I took several months ago to earn my Certified Lay Servant certificate was entitled "Leading in Prayer. This all provides for a nice pedigree; but it doesn't make me a Prayer Guru, not even close.

Nonetheless, I was struck once again by just how powerful the act of praying is – it's as though the Holy Spirit delights in the act itself, and wants to stir up the Prayer Pot and add exotic, wonderful effects for all

involved. I've seen it again and again, this spiritual wildfire that prayer creates; and while the results on my end may sometimes be extraordinary, more often they are quiet and introspective, and sometimes even painful, as you will see shortly. But there is usually learning involved for me in the aftermath, and it is always to God's purpose.

I added two friends of mine to this week's list, both on the same line. Let's call them Terry and Alex, to protect their identities. There was an exchange between them about a month or so ago, which started out with "Terry" calling "Alex" on a supposed gaff. Having had a particularly trying day, Alex could not deal with it as easily as was normally the case, and it rapidly escalated into shouting, insults, and semi-implicit threats. Since then, it has only gotten worse, with both trying to get common friends into their respective camps. (And no, this has nothing at all to do with our church, in case you're curious...). Since no one could talk to them, I decided to lift them both up in prayer.

The apostle Paul tells us to do this sort of thing several times in his letters, as well as to mediate, and to make peace wherever possible. I can tell you that my motives were the right ones when I put them both on the prayer list: healing of the spirit, harmony in a group, moving past it for all concerned. However, what I didn't realize (until I was as centered as I ever get in the prayer ministry), was that I was in all likelihood sabotaging my own effort of prayer and healing. Because I was judging both of them.

In his book "In the Grip of Grace" (which examines the Book of Romans), Max Lucado says there are

two reasons that God alone can judge: we don't know enough, and we're not good enough. What a concept. Here I was, thinking I was being a good follower of Christ, offering them both up in prayer; but at the same time I was judging Alex for not handling the situation as well as I most certainly would have, and knocking Terry for being an insensitive, aggressive lout, which of course I never am...

Did you ever wonder if God spends a lot of time rolling His eyes, shaking His head, and sighing?

I guess what I'm trying is to say is this: I need to treat prayer as an intimate, quietly joyous communion with God, spending time with my best friend Jesus, and bathing in the all-encompassing fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I figure that God has enough to deal with – I don't need to saddle him with a questionable ego and an even more questionable set of values. Instead, I'll try to use prayer as the mission statement I just outlined, and maybe God will use me to bring a bit more peace into the world, rather than a lot more judgment and chaos. Sounds like a plan!

—Yours in Christ, Tom Bracken



From College
Stephanie Bonfe
Jennifer Whalen

From High School
Michael Layton

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

The Stewardship Moment

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26.

Summertime! Time for beach, barbeque, and outdoor fun! And the members of your Stewardship Committee keep on doing whatever it is that we do. However, since we all seem to be in summer vacation mode, we thought we'd just touch lightly—and briefly—on some of the things that stop for the summer; some that are brand new; and some that keep going all the year round.

To paraphrase Alice Cooper, Sunday “School’s out for Summer”, with a nice ceremony and acknowledgments during the June 9th service. We have so much gratitude for the people who make that possible in our church; if you wish to become involved, please see Elizabeth, Cynthia, Debbie and Don, Raquel, or any of the others who are committed to the spiritual growth and benevolence of our youth. Everyone who does it / has done it assures us that it is one of the most rewarding ministries with which you could ever hope to be involved.

The Salvation Army offers a service on the majority of Sundays at 6PM in the Cloud Room, led by Envoy Charles Roberts. It is spiritually uplifting, filled with worship and great music, and is more an experience than an order of worship, at least to this writer. Challenge yourself to check it out. And speaking of “Challenges”...

The Challenge of Choice was rolled out at the beginning of June, to be finalized and offered on Sunday June 30th. Since this is being written in mid-June, we don't have any sense of the level of success it will attain. Here is a

reprint of the description and scope:

What is the Challenge of Choice, exactly? It's simply a different approach to looking at the ways in which we spend our money, and seeing if it could be put more to God's purpose... We all have needs which must be met: food, housing, clothes, transportation, and so on. And those are all exactly that: needs. What the Challenge of Choice is asking us to do is look at the purchases we make that are optional, or perhaps even luxuries, and ask ourselves whether at least some of that could be put to better use in the furtherance of God's kingdom. Do we need a fancy coffee rather than brewing a pot at home? Take the \$3 or \$4 we didn't spend, and throw it in the Challenge envelope. Applebee's instead of Chez Whoopie? (If there's not such a restaurant, perhaps there should be!) Same nutritional needs met, maybe \$30 or \$40 for the Lord to use. Into the envelope with it! Pass on “Iron Man III” for the third time, wait for the DVD or Netflix? You get the idea. It's only for a month. Bring the envelopes back, and drop them in the basket on June 30th, just four weeks from today. There is no target amount, it really is a challenge (because it dares you to change some of your ingrained thought processes and habits), and it really could be fun, if you think about it. Make it a game! Let your children challenge you on your expenditures—if you dare. Whatever you do, and whether there is \$1 or \$500 in your envelope on June 30th, just keep this simple thought in front of you: Everything that we have comes from God above; can we part with some of the excess for a month, so that the work that Jesus started can continue? Indeed, it is your choice.

Finally, let's talk about two special ministries, both of which are very quiet and yet very important. The first is the Healing Ministry, which meets at 7:00 PM on the third Sunday of the month. Jesus set the precedent: healing through prayer is powerful, and there are sometimes truly amazing moments which take place. Do yourself a favor: if you haven't yet availed yourself of this powerful and blessed ministry, do so – you never know what will happen, except that God will be involved!

The second ministry is the Prayer Ministry, which started up about a year ago (apparently there was one here a number of years ago – that's a question for the historians). It has become very interesting, in that it is “virtual”: the updated prayer list is forwarded to everyone on the team via email, and each person prays at the same designated time, whether they are at church, home, on a business trip, or anywhere else. We all believe that our God is not limited by either space or time, and therefore that when we pray for the same people from the same list at approximately the same time, we are gathered together in the presence of God and Jesus, and are surrounded by the Holy Spirit. It is open to anyone who would like to participate, with two provisos: 1) you must ask to be involved (we do not do “email blasts” to the whole church, for several reasons); and 2) it is not an “easy” ministry, in that some of the prayer requests will tear at your heart. But God will give you the courage and strength to deal with the weight of emotions involved in such work.

**—Your fellow servants on your
Stewardship Committee**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>2</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Worship	<i>8</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>9</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>13</i> 4:00 p.m.—Emmaus Gathering
<i>14</i> 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee Decorate For VBS	<i>15</i> 9:00 a.m.—Noon— VBS 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>16</i> 9:00 a.m.—Noon— VBS 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>17</i> 9:00 a.m.—Noon— VBS	<i>18</i> 9:00 a.m.—Noon— VBS	<i>19</i> 9:00 a.m.—Noon— VBS 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10 a.m.—Worship	<i>22</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>23</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner	<i>26</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	<i>29</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>30</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>31</i>	In August 8/22—Wesley Dinner 8/24—9:30 a.m. UMW		

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A Summer Thought from your Financial Secretary

Ah, summer! Warm temperatures, outdoor activities, beaches, mountains, vacations! I have heard that there are even some who take the summer off from their church (although, I am certain, this doesn't apply to anyone in OUR church...)

But here's a question for you: when you go on a long vacation, is part of it taking a vacation from making your mortgage or rent payment? Or your cell phone bill? The monthly amount due on your car loan? Probably not without significant repercussions, I would think. Vacations are great, but life (and its responsibilities) goes on. And, can you guess one of the things that never, ever takes a vacation? That's right: your church. Not one day out of 365. A critical requirement of keeping the doors open every day is for the people who have made financial commitments to honor those commitments. Right now, it's simply not happening, it's a problem, and we've just begun the summer.

Do you go without food on vacation? Doubtful. Unfortunately, our church is put on a financial starvation diet during the summer, and it may be because people don't understand the situation. Remember, if you made an Estimate of Giving for 2013, we can't adjust our expenses because you're not physically here; also, if you make an offering to Heat, Restoring Hope, etc. keep in mind that you will be credited for it, but it does not count against your Estimate of Giving (pledge).

We're a house of God—but we also have to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's. Whether it's Easter Morning or early August, our financial operations and needs continue. Please make sure that your offerings contribute throughout the summer according to your commitment, and allow the United Methodist Church of Patchogue to offer spiritual food to all, with no vacation... Thanks.

—Tom Bracken

Silent Angels

A 122 year old church takes a lot of love and care. So much happens in PMC that few of us know about. We are most fortunate to have a number of “Silent Angels”. This column is an attempt to say Thank You to those “Silent Angels” that this writer knows about.

To Wilfredo Franco and Ray Hensen for doing all the work needed to upgrade the comfort facility in the Sanctuary. To Franco for the floor, painting, mirror, light and commode. To Ray for fitting old pipes to new fittings (no small feat) and for cleaning, staining and sealing the wainscoting to match the rest of the sanctuary and for their personal monetary donations for same.

To the Womens’ club of PMC for their monetary donation to upgrade the sanctuary comfort facility.

To the PMC Mens’ club headed by Ernest Ikpe and Bob Prince for the Easter and Mother’s Day plant sales, St. Patrick’s Dinner, Palm Sunday breakfast and June church picnic.

To Janet and Jerry Alt for the donation of a new LARGE coffee pot for our church functions.

To Carolyn Willis and Bob Prince for organizing and planting the flowers around the church grounds.

To Bob Rogers for painting and sealing the church street steps.

To JoAnn Henn and Gary Graves for restoring the stained window and banner in Wesley Hall.

To Barbara Becker for procuring aide from Island Harvest and Long Island Cares to supplement supplies and food for the Wesley Dinners and

pantry.

To Jim and Jean Miller for donation pick ups from the IRS for pantry and for shopping and overseeing the operation of our pantry mission.

To Dave Hollowell for over 1.5 years work custom fitting back splashes on all the tower louvers to lessen the rain leakage causing so much damage to the walls of the steeple and the second and first floors.

To Barry Burrell for arranging and transporting donations from Shop Rite for the PMC pantry.

To Barbara Becker for overseeing the ESL class—another church mission.

To Dave Hollowell and Steve Rice for overseeing the ushers and worship assistants each Sunday.

To Selma Graham for the Healing Services each month—so meaningful to the attendees.

To Tom Bracken, Lynn Jones and Jim Graham for the detailed and thankless job of keeping all the accounts of PMC straight.

To Kathy Wells for keeping the accounts of the Wesley Dinners straight.

To Wilfredo Franco, Ray Hensen and Dave Hollowell for the new spotlight lighting in the sanctuary and the cloud room.

To Pastor Sanchez and family for doing all the yard work at the parsonage saving PMC yard maintenance costs.

To George Hoag and Conrad Queen for operating our sound system and doing the video for USTREAM broadcasts.

To Dave Hollowell for opening and closing the louvers above the ceiling of the sanctuary for air circulation in the upper regions of church and cloud room.

To Jim Graham and Steve Rice and their committee for organizing our golf outing.

To Debbie and Don Kolacki for the new blue children’s chairs for our Sunday School children

To Debbie and Don Kolacki for a powerful projector and screen for the sanctuary recommended by the Bishop.

To All our counters each Sunday for the arduous task of counting and depositing our offerings each week.

To Dave Hollowell for replacing missing roof shingles and flashings on our roofs.

To Carolyn Willis and Lola Schwartz for the time consuming job of updating our membership roles as requested by LI East District Superintendent.

To Bonnie Abbott for polishing the cross and candlesticks on the altar for Easter services.

To Bob Prince, Barry Burrell, Bob Rogers, and Jim Miller for transporting tables, chairs etc. for our church picnic.

To Geri Sheridan for overseeing altar flowers and altar vespers every Sunday and church seasons.

To Lorraine Brenner and Betty Rice for hospitality we all enjoy every Sunday.

To Ray Hensen for replacing the door handle and lock in the Wesley Hall comfort facility and for keeping the old upstairs ones (at least one) operational.

Continued on Page 8

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
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We would like to reduce our mailings. If you can use an e-mail copy (it's in color that way), instead of mailed, please call the office.

Silent Angels (from page 7)

To Barbara Becker, Trudy Mansfield, Steve Shadbolt, and Carol Kirschner for heading up the Wesley Dinners each month.

To Carolyn Willis, Bob Rogers and Jose Garcia for cleaning up all the clipping when the bushes were trimmed around the church.

To Dave Hollowell, Steve Rice, and Bill Loris for replacing the broken stones in our church walkway.

So you see, our church family is busy helping when and where they can. Just as your personal home needs attention – so does our church home. Many hands make light work and bind us together as a church family. If you can spare some time and would like to be a “Silent Angel”, please contact the church office and let us know. May you walk always in the Light of “Our Father”.

—Busy Silent Angel

birthdays

July 5 Brandon Butler
William Thompson
July 6 Taylor Bornschein
July 8 Jennifer Whalen
Nicholas Turano

July 11 Cassandra McMillin
William Camarda
July 13 Andrew William Rose
July 14 Kayla Abbate
July 15 Robert Dodge
July 17 Francesca Artus

July 19 Krista Collazo
July 28 Jaime Morello
July 31 Savannah Lanzetta
Jasmine Igel
Aug. 1 Ava Walsh
Aug. 2 Evan Michael Louis
Aug. 3 Dalen Pereira
Penelope Weber
Aug. 7 Jordan Thompson
Aug. 11 Gloria Leahy
Aug. 16 Virginia Hayward
Aug. 19 Kaitlin Braile
Jacqueline Braile
Meghan Braile
Christopher Algieri
Aug. 21 Kristyn Brewer
Aug. 24 Sarah Turner
Sophia Eucar Nacion
Jacob Miller
Aug. 31 Kaitlin Ficurilli