

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

June 2016

Work At Faith

Deuteronomy 11:1 "Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always."

Since our Lay Leader Barbara wrote last month's article, and mentioned Bishop Robert Schenase, I would like to talk in this article about the third of his five qualities of churches: Intentional Faith Development.

We need to get away from the cliché, "hatch, match and dispatch" type of Christians.

It is wonderful to meet young mothers who want to have their babies baptized, but when I ask why she wants a baptism, the answer is usually that they want their baby to be blessed. I am grateful that Methodists baptize infants because we believe God's grace is sufficient. It is important to emphasize to

the mothers though that they should have their children decide on their own as they reach the age for confirmation.

Apart from unfathomable, indescribable grace, we have our responsibilities as Christians, and that is what Bishop Schenase has written about. Actually I had the privilege of hearing him speak about it. I liked the part about being intentional! We have to always be intentional about something we love to do.

Olympic winners are intentional about building

up their muscles. Pianists, and other musicians are intentional about practice; it is unimaginable how much they practice in order for them to be a top level musician or an athlete.

Even if we claim to be justified by our faith, our intentionality has to play a role if we would like to be authentic Christians. As we need to tame our tongues, our hearts and minds toward the Lord has to be developed by the means of grace. Didn't someone say that the word "love" is a verb?

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN JUNE

June 5—Rev. Dawn Yoon, 1 Kings 17:8-24, Psalm 146, Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17

June 12—Rev. Dawn Yoon, 1 Kings 21:1-21a, Psalm 5:1-8, Galatians 2:15-21, Luke 7:36-8:3

June 19—Rev. Dawn Yoon, 1 Kings 19:1-15a, Psalm 42, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

June 26—Rev. Dawn Yoon, 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62



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.

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!

Faith (From Page 1)

Even if you are not an activist, you should think about social action. Also, you can read Scriptures, participate in bible studies, have a quote time at home, maybe go on a retreat to develop a one on one relationship with the Lord all by yourself.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve the Lord with you for the last one and half years, and I pray for all the best as you grow in faith together. If anyone interested in going through Romans, Paul epistle, for short term bible study, please join us on Sunday morning. Many blessings, In Christ,

—Rev. Yoon

International Dinner

On May 14, approximately fifty people from church and community came together in Wesley Hall to celebrate the wonderful diversity of the Patchogue community. What better way to do that than by sharing a feast representing the cuisines of the many countries of origin.

We had dishes from Ecuador, Germany, Peru, Mexico, Italy, England, and a corn pudding that the Pilgrims would have recognized. And in such abundance! In addition, there was a display of artifacts from Nigeria, Mexico, Germany, and Korea.

We enjoyed a presentation from Madge and Ernest Ikpe on the many beautiful items they brought from their travels to Nigeria, Ernest's home country. A wonderful folk dance from Ecuador was performed by a troupe of young people, *Traditiones de Mi Tierra*. They were a vision of grace and color as they whirled around the stage in their gorgeous costumes.

Younger children enjoyed crafts and activities provided by our dedicated ESL teacher, Theresa Popal. Our church has provided free ESL classes for more than 10 years. The many hundreds of students who have taken our classes refute the oft repeated, but inaccurate, perception that 'immigrants don't want to learn English.' Of course they do, but the scarcity of accessible and affordable classes limits their ability to do so.

A free will offering raised \$160, which will be sent to aid survivors of the earthquake in Ecuador; donations of canned goods were given to our food pantry. The lesson to be drawn from an evening such as we enjoyed is that no

matter where we came from or how long ago, we are a community now. And communities thrive and grow when all members work together to resolve problems, enjoy differences, and cherish our commonalities. Peace.

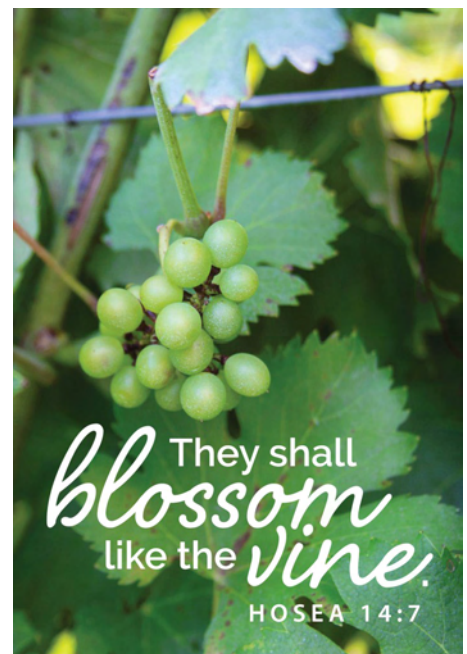
—Barbara Becker

Save The Date

As the culmination of our 225th anniversary celebration, on October 6, 2016, our church will hold a fundraising dinner at Mediterranean Manor in Patchogue.

The menu will include passed hors d'oeuvres, hot and cold buffet, cake, ice cream sundae bar, coffee, tea and soft drinks. Ticket price is \$55.00.

Stay tuned for more information over the next few months.



June Birthdays

June 9 Nicholas Lyons

June 17 Josh Jansson

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	2 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	4 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
5 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship 11:30 p.m.—SPRC 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME Service	6 7:00 p.m.—AA	7 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	8 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	9 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	11 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
12 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME Service	13 7:00 p.m.—AA	14 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	15 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	16 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	17 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	18 9:30 a.m.— UMW 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
19 10 a.m.— Wor- ship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME Service	20 7:00 p.m.—AA	21 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	22 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	23 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	24 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	25 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
26 10 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME Service	27 7:00 p.m.—AA	28 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	29 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	30 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal		

Sixth In Our History Series

Birthday For Our Building

Come and join us in church as we celebrate the 126th birthday of our church building.

Remember, we had four other churches before this one. The first was at Ezra Tuttle's home, the second was a community meeting place on Waver-

ly Ave and Main St, the third, the corner of River and Main, and the fourth was the corner of Railroad Ave. and Church St.

On June 12, 1889, there was a groundbreaking ceremony to consecrate and start building our present edifice.

A year later, on June 1, 1890, we opened our doors and celebrated the beginning of worship in our present building, which in the records said would hold 900 people. [Ed. Note: That's

a lot of standees. The Fire Marshall lists us now at 700]

So, let's party on June 12 with cake and fellowship after our service, in honor of those who made this remarkable church possible. Let us all celebrate and rejoice.

—Wendy Hollowell, Church Historian



The Groundbreaking for our present building was held on June 12, 1889. In the center of the picture is the pastor, Rev. William H. Barton.



The cornerstone was laid on August 2, 1889 (delayed one day by rain.) Deposited in it were a Bible, the 1888 edition of the Methodist Episcopal Church Discipline, a brief history of the previous buildings, copies of the Suffolk County Argus and Patchogue Advance, the building financial plan, pictures of the previous buildings, a list of the officers and members of the church, as well as names of the teachers and students of the Sunday School and the officers and members of the Young People's Methodist Alliance.

Long Island Delegate Stands With LGBTQ People At General Conference

As Long Island lay delegate Fred Brewington rose to address the United Methodist General Conference on May 14, dozens of protesters—many with rainbow duct tape over their mouths—stood outside the space reserved for delegates to symbolize the silent treatment they feel LGBTQ people get from the church.



Delegate Fred Brewington (at microphone).

He described himself as “an African-American man who is straight,” asked for a moment of personal privilege to speak on behalf of another delegate, Dorothee Benz.

She was ruled out of order on May 12 when she used the term LGBTQ while speaking about why she favored Rule 44. Rule 44 was not adopted. It was offered as an alternative process to Robert's Rules of Order for dealing with particularly complicated and contentious legislation through group discernment.

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward was presiding and made the ruling. Ward said from floor that the vote was over whether to approve Rule 44, not how it might be applied. When

—Continued on Page 7

General Conference

Conflict

More than 850 Methodist delegates gathered in Portland, Oregon, were stuck.

With 100-plus proposals on what the United Methodist Church (UMC) should do about human sexuality—from deleting its Book of Discipline’s stance that homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching” to allowing local churches to choose whether or not to approve same-sex unions and non-celibate gay clergy—organizers of the denomination’s quadrennial conference tried to develop a special process to address the issue.

In the first week, delegates then spent three days debating Rule 44, which proposed that instead of having a committee of delegates compile and shape the proposals into a final petition, as per usual, the issue of sexuality should instead be considered by all 864 delegates—split into teams of no more than 15 people. The small groups, meant to facilitate unity, would each report their petition recommendation to a six-person committee. In turn, that group would draft a final petition for all the delegates to vote on.

On Friday (May 13), delegates voted 355 to 477 against the proposal, in what is likely a preview of any vote taken on biblical sexuality. In general, Rule 44 was embraced by proponents of gay marriage and opposed by proponents of traditional marriage.

That’s probably because the usual method has been working pretty well

for conservative Methodists who favor traditional marriage. Though other mainline denominations have opened the doors to the full participation of gay members, the UMC’s General Conference spent the last 44 years consistently voting to maintain the denomination’s ban on same-sex unions and on ordaining non-celibate clergy.

The UMC’s firm stance doesn’t stem primarily from its American members; less than half of them (46%) agree with the current ban, while 38 percent oppose it. Almost all of the 100-plus proposals on changes to the UMC’s stance on human sexuality came from American conferences.

Some even spent the preceding weeks practicing denominational civil disobedience: the day before the conference began, 111 Methodist religious leaders revealed their homosexual orientation in an open letter. A week earlier, 15 clergy and candidates for clergy in the New York Annual Conference did the same thing. And elder David Meredith married his partner at a Methodist church in Columbus, Ohio, on the weekend between the two.

Some US congregations and conferences have also gone their own way. More than 750 churches have joined the Reconciling Ministries Network, an organization that works for the “full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities” within the UMC.

The Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference recommended a married lesbian for commissioning as a provisional deacon in February, noting that

it was “not of one mind on the issue of ordination of LGBTQ individuals” with the denomination. In March, the New York Conference announced it would welcome candidates for ministry regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

But others are pushing back. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, which famously defrocked Frank Schaefer after he performed the marriage of his gay son, called on the General Conference to demand clergy accountability to the “rules of our common covenant” and to ask clergy to challenge the rules “through legitimate channels of holy conferencing, rather than breaking that covenant.” (Schaefer was later reinstated.)

The Alabama-West Florida Conference also passed resolutions in support of the denomination’s current stance

The conservative conferences have a powerful ally—the UMC’s African contingent. Of the 864 delegates attending the convention in Oregon, more than 40 percent came from outside the United States. Of those, three-quarters hail from Africa.

The voices of African leaders—which progressives have failed to sideline—will likely only get stronger: African Methodist churches are growing by more than 200,000 members annually. The Methodists on that continent are multiplying so quickly that some predict they will overtake the US members in five to eight years.

American Methodist churches have lost more than 52,000 members each year since 1974. In the 2013-2014 reporting year, the US conferences lost more than 116,000 members.

—Continued on Page 8

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The deadline for the July-August issue
of **The Link** is **June 10**. Note early deadline.
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".

General Conference (From Page 4)

Ward ruled Benz out of order, Benz had to sit before her allotted three minutes had expired.

Brewington, of the New York Conference, told United Methodist News Service that the problem was the manner in which the ruling took place.

“If you don’t have the ability on the floor to justify your points, there’s no use in standing up,” Brewington said after the plenary session. “More than that, it was the manner in which it (the ruling) took place. ... You’re entitled to your three minutes.”

Reached May 14 after the protest, Ward said, “On Thursday, we followed the parliamentary process outlined by the chair on the commission of the general conference and the presiding officer. This led us to consider the adoption of the rule before the second step of consideration of how the rule might be used.”

She added, “Personal hurt was an unintended and regrettable consequence.”

Cloud of witnesses

Surrounded by delegates from the New York Conference, Brewington spoke on the plenary floor. Benz stood at his side.

“In some places,” he said, “we have referred to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people as ‘issues.’ They are not. They are people.”

Brewington asked Bishop Cynthia Harvey, presiding bishop for the session, for the plenary body “and you as chair” to recognize harm was done.

Harvey asked for a time of prayer. “There is a lot of hurt and there’s a lot of healing that needs to happen,” she said.

In her prayer, she asked for minds, hearts and ears to be open to all God’s children.

“We don’t have to agree, we just have to love.”

Brewington praised Harvey’s handling of the matter.

“Bishop Harvey showed an enormous amount of grace and sensitivity,” he said. “I thought that she was responsive to the request for recompense. I think there needs to be more in terms of full discussion by the entire Council of Bishops on making sure that we don’t either intentionally or unintentionally outlaw certain speech in our deliberations.”

No apology offered

After the morning session, Benz told United Methodist News Service a statement had been prepared for the bishops, which would have been an apology. She said that statement was rejected.

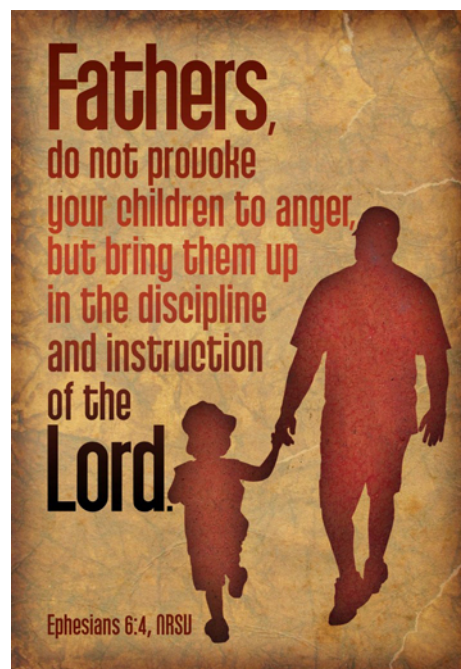
In meetings with Ward and Bishop Jane Middleton, Benz said she told them a number of times, “Please understand the choices you have here are placating the majority that is in power or offering some small solace and pastoral care to a minority that is stigmatized and excluded from the church. You cannot do both. In doing nothing, you have made your choice.”

“We sent it (the statement) to Bishops Ward and Middleton at 8 p.m. last night. They indicated this morning at 8 a.m. that they brought it to the bishops and that the bishops did not agree to read it,” Benz said.

Benz wanted to have the apology read from the floor. Part of the statement said, “In our striving to avoid dissention, we have at times simply said nothing, at times actively avoided mentioning LGBTQ people. This has happened here at this General Conference. Our words welcoming all are betrayed by this kind of silence, and so we want to now affirm that we love and value LGBTQ United Methodists. This is your church; your gifts and your faithfulness help make us who we are. You are not weeds; you are wheat.”

Benz read the entire statement to her supporters who immediately took up the phrase and turned it into a cheer: “We are not weeds. We are wheat!”

—Kathy L. Gilbert & Sam Hodges,
UMNS



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Sunday Worship—10 AM | Sunday School—10 AM

Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM

Hearing assistance provided



General Conference (From Page 5)

Only 4 of the 56 conferences saw an increase in members, and only two managed an increase in worship attendance.

(Even in the United States, theologically conservative Methodist churches are among the fastest-growing.)

In a denomination of more than 7 million, the loss may look small. But overseas, Methodists now number more than 5 million—with most in Africa. (In the United Kingdom, where Methodism was birthed, numbers dropped from 800,000 in 1906 to 600,000 in 1980 before dipping dramatically to 200,000 by 2015.)

In fact, a Methodist leader and economist warned US church leaders last year that they had only 15 years to turn around the decline before it would be impossible to do so.

“By 2050, the connection will have collapsed,” Donald House Sr. told them.

While some of the loss can be traced to congregations that are leaving to protest the UMC’s soft stance on disciplining those who allow same-sex marriage and practicing gay clergy, a 2014 poll found that most Methodists (90%) don’t think issues of human sexuality are worth splitting over.

In fact, most (63%) said it was “diverting the church from more important things,” and, in a list of

church priorities, ranked sexuality issues lower than creating disciples of Christ, spiritual growth, youth involvement, members’ spiritual growth, decline in membership, poverty, children at risk, and social injustice.

—Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra,
Christianity Today

