

# TheLink



### The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

May 2012 Edited By George Hoag

#### You Are God's Watchman

This month I want to share with you this small message from a colleague. I hope you will benefit from it; I sure did! First take a look at this scripture reading:

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. -Hab 2:1-4 (KIV)

Habakkuk, waiting for an answer, is shown that he must wait by faith. As a minister you are God's watchman. The watchman's job was vital. An approaching army left residents of an ancient city precious little time to flee or to prepare for battle. Everyone's life depended on the alert watchman as he peered into the horizon for the earliest glimpse of an approaching threat. It was critical that the people be alerted as soon as possible to what was coming.

As a minister, God places you as a watchman for yourself, your friends,

#### Worship In May

**May 6**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Excellent Churches Grow Faithful Disciples*. Psalm 22:25-31, Acts 2:42-47.

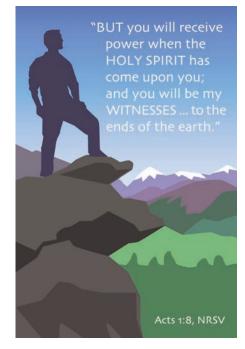
**May 13**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: Excellent Churches Step Out Of The Box To Serve, Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, Matthew 25:31-46.

May 20—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: Extravagance Is A Sign of Excellence, Psalm 1, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

May 27—Pentecost Sunday—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: Released From Babel, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Acts 2:1-21.

your family, and your church family. It is essential that you be attentive to what God is saying. It may be that a friend is in crisis and needs God's word. As you study your Bible and meditate, God may choose to give you words of encouragement to share with people around you. It may be that as your children face difficult challenges, God will speak to you as you pray and reveal how you can help them. If you are spiritually alert, you may receive a warning from God that addresses specific dangers that those around you are facing.

If you are careless, on the other hand, your family may be struggling, but the answers God has for them will go



unheard. If you are oblivious to God's message, those around you may miss the encouraging promise from God that He wanted to share through you. God holds His watchmen accountable for their diligence (Ezek.33.6). Strive to be attentive to every word that comes to you from God. Your diligence will benefit you and those around you as you heed God's warnings and follow His commands.

-Rev. Ernesto Sanchez

## Circle of Concern

#### For Bereavement:

For the Family and Friends of Nofi Family on the death of their seven year old daughter.

#### For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Holly Nelson, Lisa Prince, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice), Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen, Rubano, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Rachel Nason, all those who have lost their jobs, Carlos Alvarado, for the Nations of Africa, Tim, Paul, Christine, Mr. Bralla, Pete and Carol Moore, prayers of comfort for police and fireman and all those who risk their lives to make ours safe and better; Raquel Miller, 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, Lori Purificato, Ashley Lauren, Jose Garcia, for those in our church community who are fighting against cancer; Linda Morgan, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Amy Vining, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, Alicia Evans, Debbie Holand, Jemma, Barbara, Katie, Anna, Suzanne, Amanda Garcia, Doris May, Margaret, Lois, Laurie, Bonnie Smith, Debbie Turpeau, Julio, Marvin Rice, Arthur Rice, Lisa, Paul Walkawitz, Debbie, Tom Kerr, Laura Jacobs, Mr. Dominic and family, Mrs. Snick, Sarah and Justin Tann for a healthy pregnancy and birth of their first child; Barbara Jehle, Elise Gavrock, Steve, June Barile, Luke Gonzalez, Debbie Reading, Lisa, Anna, Ben Gentry, Ted Dew and Wendi Schwartz.

#### These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Peter Moor (Kathie Loris' father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Mr. Tallon, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Glenn Schwartz, Todd Skwirz, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Corinne Burdett, Pat Bayne, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Pat Q. Bayne, Gail Devery, Carmelo Espiritu and Wendi Schwartz.

#### These at Home:

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, John Casale, Mr. O'Keefe, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, the Moultrre Family, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Muriel Vilar, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother,) Catherine Interrante, Arthur Rice, Glenn Hollins, Beth Widera, Grace Richardson (Dianne Adone's mother), Elyse Jacobs (oldest granddaughter of Gail and George Hoag)

\* Please contact the Church Office if someone should be removed or added.

#### These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

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

**Hazel Nargi** in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Rachel Nason in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Ester Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, Room 78D, 801 Gonzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, 631-289-3150.

Pray for our church and her future directions!



The deadline for contributions to the June edition of TheLINK is May 11. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

#### Stewardship

Palm Sunday through Easter was a glorious end to Lent. The altar this Easter was outstanding. Geri Sheridan, Lenny Pearson and the workers at the Flower Sale placed eighty plants throughout the sanctuary. It's beauty impressed the 183 parishioners that worshiped this Easter.

The Easter plant sale on Good Friday went really well. Bob Prince and his volunteers made \$800 for the church. He would like to thank all who helped and those members who bought flowers this year. He would also like to thank Ted Davies for ordering the plants and his right hand man, Bob Rogers, for being there the entire two days.

Our Bell Choir was resurrected by Kathleen Wells. They joined with the choir to provide a wonderful music program this Easter. Thank you Kathleen and the Bell Choir.

The Saint Patrick's Day Dinner was a great success. We planned for ninety dinners and ended up serving 150. Bob Prince organized the dinner with his dedicated volunteers. The other hero was master chef Steve Shadbolt, our magician of the kitchen. As we began running out of food, he began preparing food from the Wesley Dinners closet, that was later replaced. We raised \$1000 for the church, enough money so the MYF can provide two operations for their Smile Train mission, and a stipend to the Ward Hill Band. Members of the MYF who worked are: Michael & Matthew Layton, Dawn & Erica McDowell, Kody & Jacob Miller, Lorie Purificato and her friend Friedrich Kaiser, Steve Rice, Brian and Courtney Shadbolt, and Heather &

Rachel Watson. Thanks to everyone for a great dinner.

Bob Prince orchestrated the Palm Sunday Breakfast. It was another opportunity for us to break bread together and enjoy Christian fellowship. Steve Shadbolt did his magic in the kitchen. Many men and women worked to make it a success. Four hundred dollars was raised for the church. Bob would like to thank all who helped.

Our MYF has been busy this spring. The Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang needs everyone's help. This MYF mission provides sandwiches to 130,000 people on Long Island each week. On Saturday, May 5, at 8 PM members of our MYF and volunteers will be at the Commack UMC to make sandwiches. This is done on an assembly line basis. You can help in two ways: volunteers are greatly appreciated. Bread, peanut butter, jelly, paper plates, plastic sandwich bags and paper towels can be donated. A box will be in the office for these donations. Raquel Miller and Debbie Watson are our contact people and will be accompanying the MYF to Commack. Please support them in their mission to feed the hungry on Long Island.

This month the MYF will have a movie screening at the church. *Courageous* is a movie about a father who signs a contract to raise his children as good Christians.

There will be a discussion after the movie. The date for the screening will be announced via our church internet connection and in church.

In the 1990's Rich Nogiewich erected the Victorian style fence on the corner of South Ocean Ave. and Church Street. It began showing signs of deteriorating two years ago. Just before Easter, using donated materials, Ray Henson began rebuilding the fence so a sign could be placed on it advertising the availability of Wesley Hall for rent. Ray grew up with and was a good friend of Rich Nogiewich, who died from pancreatic cancer. Ray donated over forty hours to honor his friend. Thank you Ray. The fence looks great.

This church property issue reflects on others. The outside steel handrails and doors are rusting and eventually will have to be replaced if we do not act soon. The rust killer and paint are available at the church. The Stewardship Questionnaire from last November revealed that several people were interested in providing their time and talents to maintain the outside of our building. If you can be a good steward and donate your time to doing this needed work, please contact a Trustee. Ed Klingel, President, and George Hoag, Vice President, can coordinate your efforts with others. Thank you for being a good steward.

New speakers have been installed in the sanctuary. Franco ran the wiring for them through the attic. Gary Graves and I helped Franco install them on either side of the altar.

Our Membership Secretary, Carolyn Willis, has been toiling to update our membership rolls. Lola Schwartz held this important post at her previous church and is working with Carolyn on this Herculean project. The rolls have not been kept up to date for quite some time. The first 150 letters have been sent out asking absent members if they want to remain on the rolls. We would appreciate that those who receive these letters to answer them by

via the enclosed post card and mailing it back. If we do not hear from you after two years of trying, the Conference dictates that your name be removed from the rolls. Any questions or if you prefer privacy, you may e-mail your answers to patchogueumc@yahoo.com.

Our Golf Outing will be held at Calverton Links on Wednesday May 16. We will be needing golfers, prize baskets, and volunteers to work the event. Please reserve that date on your calendar to join us in our largest fund raiser.

> —Dave Hollowell— Stewardship Co-Chair

#### What's Cool In Sunday School

I can't believe it's May already!

Just a quick note to express my gratitude to Carla Fiore-Gibson, Kate Weber, Marilyn Franco, and her son Christian for all their hard work cleaning up the nursery. You all did an amazing job and the nursery looks wonderful! I am also extremely grateful to everyone who cleaned up the stage. I was stunned when I saw it and couldn't get over how empty and beautiful it looked. Next stop, Cloud Room. I will post the next clean-up date on the Sunday School bulletin board with a sign-up sheet for anyone who wants to help. Remember, many hands make light work.

During the service, on June 10, I will be presenting the teachers with gifts to show my appreciation for all their hard work. I will be in contact with any parents who have a child going into third grade to let them know that their child will be presented with a Bible during services on June 17th. This is also the last day of

#### **Building Bridges**

According to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, a bridge is anything that spans a gap. And what a gap of understanding exists between so many different religious traditions. Not only lack of understanding, but misunderstanding, embracing of stereotypes, and worst of all, the arrogant assumption that one belief system is superior to another. Why is that so? Do we believe that God is not capable of speaking to many different peoples in many different ways?

I'm reminded of an old fable about an elephant wandering into a village of blind people. Using their sense of touch, they each describe the elephant in terms of what they can perceive through their fingers and hands. Each obviously is limited and can only give a partial description. And of course, each is convinced theirs is the correct description. Isn't that analogous to what religions seek to dogive us a connection, a description of the Divine through core beliefs and teachings, but that are limited by cultural context and the inability of humans to completely perceive that which is so much greater than ourselves? We each have a partial understanding of the nature of God.

Perhaps if we gain an understanding of other belief systems, not to mention a better one of our own, we can bridge the gaps that separate human beings and keep us from a closer connection to God.

On Sunday, May 20, following worship, the UMW is presenting a program entitled "Building Bridges". Representatives from four faith communities—Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Unitarian Universalism, will share their beliefs and how they observe their faiths, and answer questions. Following the discussion, the UMW will provide a free luncheon to all.

Building Bridges is a program of the Multifaith Forum of the LI Council of Churches.

Come and learn and share.

—Barbara Becker

Sunday School. Raquel Miller will teach a Father's Day workshop.

If you have any questions please contact the church office.

—Blessings, Elizabeth Biederman, Sunday School Superintendent

If you haven't been getting e-mail messages from us, it means we don't have your address. Please send your e-mail info to patchogueumc@yahoo.com or call the church office.



Enjoy music, dancing, a gourmet picnic dinner & dessert, raffles, door prizes aboard the Port Jefferson-Bridgeport Ferry. Tickets \$45.00. Group rate for 10 tickets: \$400. Call PRC at: 631-821-2255.

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	2 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	3 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	5
6 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School	7 7 p.m.—AA	8 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	9 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	10 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	12
13 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ \Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance/Trustees	14 7 p.m.—AA	15 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	16 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	17 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	19
20 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Worship/ Sunday School	21 7 p.m.—AA	22 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	23	24 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	26
27 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ \Sunday School	28 7 p.m.—AA	29 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	30	31 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal		

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# Jesus — the original child advocate

# WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#### **Bayport Patchogue Souls Softball Schedule**

**Monday April 16** at Home (James Wilson Young Middle School)

Tuesday April 17 Away at William Floyd Middle School

Tuesday April 24 Away at Great Hollow Middle School

Monday April 30 at Home

Tuesday May 1 Away at Timberline Park

Monday May 7 at Home

Tuesday May 15 Away at Calvary Baptist Church

Monday May 21 Away at Dawnwood Middle School

Tuesday May 22 at Home

Tuesday May 29 at Home

Monday June 1 Away at William Floyd Middle School

Monday June 18 at Home

Tuesday June 26 at Home

Tuesday July 3 Away at Saxton Avenue Middle School

#### Somebody Has Been Sitting In My Pew

"Somebody has been sitting in my chair, and has sat the bottom through!" said the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.

It seems some churchgoers — United Methodists not excluded — are as possessive of their "family pew" as the unfortunate baby bear in the fairy tale. They arrive for Sunday worship only to discover "someone is sitting in their pew."

#### Alas! Crisis! What to do?

Have you ever been asked to move because you sat in someone's family pew?

We posed that question on the United Methodist News Service Facebook page and received some interesting responses.

Three came from clergy families.

#### Priceless expression on her face

"On the first Sunday of my first full-time appointment," wrote the Rev. Judy Powell Sibley, "my husband was asked to move by the wife of the administrative council chair. When I introduced him to the congregation, the expression on her face was priceless!" Today Sibley is retired from the Mississippi Annual (regional) Conference.

Joyce Carrasco's spouse is the Rev. Oscar Carrasco, Elgin District superintendent in the Northern Illinois Conference. She recalled a Sunday years ago when she and her daughter "sat down cautiously in a center pew" on her husband's first week at a new appointment.

"In audible voices from behind us

came, 'She doesn't know that they are sitting in the pew that belongs to so-and-so family. She'll find out soon enough and not sit there again.' And we didn't. We moved to the back pew and enjoyed that spot for six years." Today Carrasco is a member of Epworth United Methodist Church, Elgin, Ill.

"Before I was appointed," said the Rev. Douglas L. Amis, "my wife and I would intentionally take someone else's seats to push the comfort zone (and cause) them to move." Eventually, because so many worshippers were not in their usual places, "the pastor commented that it was hard to tell who wasn't there!" Today Amis serves Miller United Methodist Church, Des Moines, Iowa.

#### A lasting impression

Being asked to move can make a lasting impression, according to Brenda Mayberry of Manhattan, Kan. When she was a child visiting a church with her parents, someone asked them to vacate a pew.

"My mom glared back at them," she said. Her dad retorted that when the usual occupants of the pew arrived, they could ask them to move, but until then, they were staying. "The family did come and just sat beside us. Mom said we kids played in the pews just fine."

Ruie Whitecotton, Romulus, Mich., remembers attending a new church when her husband was stationed in Charleston, S.C. "The first day, we had to move three times," she said.

Angela Stetar Cox of Greensboro, N.C., had a similar experience. "We were visiting this church for the first time. We were asked to move because we were in someone else's seat. (We) never went back."

Rob Turk has "accidentally sat in someone's 'spot." But the results can be positive, he said.

"It usually can be a conversation starter and a chance to meet a new friend — or you can get your dander up in a wad and miss out on a chance. But if a church is about being welcoming and that it's an honor to have a guest in one's special 'spot,' the miracles can really happen."

-Barbara Dunlap-Berg, UMNS

## How to say 'Welcome!' — And Mean it



Display visible, clear and concise signs that a firsttime visitor can easily understand and follow.

Station trained greeters at all

building entrances, not just the sanctuary.

Train ushers to be your worship "hosts" (not gatekeepers).

Recognize that the congregation is even more influential than the greeters and ushers in creating a welcoming climate. Prepare church members for their role.

Offer cues and aids during worship. Never assume people know what you know.

Invite people to stay for social time and announce where to find the coffee.

Remember to say "thank you for coming" and "we hope to see you again."



## TheLink

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Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister Christine Saas, Office Assistant

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Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.org

Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM Supervised Nursery during worship Hearing assistance provided

#### **Address Service Requested**



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.

#### **Dear Heavenly Father,**



As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please hold our service-

men and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives.

May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

-about.com



- May 1 Christopher McGrath Jr. Kelli Pearson
- May 4 Thomas DeCrescenzo
- May 5 Emma Hillman
- May 6 Raymond Butler

  Danica Butler
- May 8 Justin Lazzarino
- May 9 Kelsey O'Reilly
- May 11 Noah Lyons
- May 13 Eric Dorfman Meggan Kryssing
- May 15 Hannah Gross
- May 22 Zachary Long
- May 23 Amanda Rose
- May 24 Kevin Leahy
- May 26 Michael Zoeller
- May 27 Conor McGrath
- May 30 Gavin O'Leary Laela Murtha