

# TheLink



### The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

November 2012 Edited By George Hoag

### Called To Spiritual Leadership

Beloved Friends, each person is called to ministry by virtue of his or her baptism, and that ministry takes place in all aspects of daily life, in and outside the church. As a pastoral leader or leader among the laity, your ministry is not just a "job," but a spiritual endeavor. You are a spiritual leader now, and others will look to you for spiritual leadership.

What does this mean? First, all persons who follow Jesus are called to grow spiritually through the practice of various Christian habits (or "means of grace") such as prayer, Bible study, private and corporate worship, acts of service, Christian conferencing, and so on. Jesus taught his disciples practices of spiritual growth and leadership that you, as a disciple, are to share with others as they look to you to be a model and guide.

Second, it means that you always keep your eye on the main reasons for any ministry—to help others grow to a mature faith in God that moves them to action on behalf of others, especially "the least" (see Matthew 25:31-46). This is an aspect of "disciple making," which is the ultimate goal of all that we do in the church. Keep praising! And may God's blessings of peace be with you.

—Pastor Sanchez

### Worship In November

**Nov. 4**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, "Extravagant Generosity Series" *The Time Is Now*, Psalm 146, John 3:16-17.

**Nov. 11**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Praise For The Passionate*, Psalm 127, Mark 12:38-44.

**Nov. 18**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Commissioned as Priests*, Psalm 113, Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25.

Nov. 25—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Tell It Again!, 2 Samuel 23:1-7, John 18:33-37.

### **Salvation Army Band Is Back**



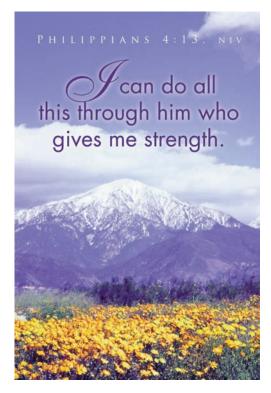
After last year's blockbuster performance, again on Nov. 3 at 8:00 p.m., approximately 60 musicians from the Hempstead Citadel Band and Songsters will present a concert in our sanctuary for the benefit of Salvation Army music scholarships and

emergency services in Suffolk County. They are one of the finest brass bands in the United States. Several of the members play professionally in New York City and also serve in the New York Staff Band that travels in performance throughout the United States and Europe.

Tickets are available in the church office, the Blue Point Salvation Army Office, Lenny Pearson, or Geri Sheridan for a suggested donation of \$8.00.

All proceeds of the concert will go to the Salvation Army here in Suffolk County to help our less fortunate neighbors.

—Lenny Pearson



## Circle of Concern

### For Joys:

For the wedding of Dawn Donovan and Steven Rice.

#### 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, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Rachel Nason, Carlos Alvarado, Tim, Paul, Christine, Carol Moore, 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, Purificato Family, Ashley Lauren, Linda Morgan, 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 Holand, 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, 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, for comfort and healing for Raymond and Randy Prince on the passing of Tina Prince, the Elam Family, Paula Rowe, Jennifer Femister and family, Joann Henn, Steve McCarthy, Bruce Kirschner., Elaine and family, Lillian Aparicio, Marge Prince, Stephen, Lisa, Rich Azzopardi, Carolyn Seus, Rosemary Swartz, Joe Tucker, Kevin Stieger, Melanie Schnieder, Connie Castogua, Beth E. Glash, Abdiel Sanchez, Marybeth Losch and family, Joan Curtis' sister, Michael Emmel, Joseph Emmel, Medero family, Kim Kluge and Emily Zeh.

### These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Debbie Fiore, John Vanderzalm, 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 Ferrrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, Maureen Grippi, Debbie Turpeau, Rich Kaufold, Michael T. Batttaglia, Cheryl Keeley, Andrew Wittman, Jr., Al Monteverdi, Henry Ohlsen, Carolyn Venator, Gladys Messias and Laura Magill.

#### 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, Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri

Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, 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, Marie Cirillo, Bob Ruggiero, Pat Addison, Eugene Smith, Don Wilson, Linda Werner, Amelia Devery (Gail) shut-in at home, Pat Q. Bayne, Cheryl Keeley, the McCarthy family, Mike Battaglia, Al Montverdi, Janet Monteverdi, Clifford Meachcum, Mia Maher, Paula Rowe and Albert Eid.

\* 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.

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

**Peter Moor** in Veteran's Home at Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY.

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

The deadline for contributions to the December edition of **TheLink** is November 9. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

### Stewardship

We of the United Methodist of Patchogue are a caring and loving church that is reaching out to the community. We are evolving to stay relevant in the current times.

Jesus urges us to feed the hungry, clothe the needy and tend to their spiritual needs. This we are doing through many programs of outreach and missions.

The Salvation Army is holding Bible Classes, worship gatherings two Sundays a month. These are to prepare cadets in the Army to go out and preach the gospels of Jesus Christ. The classes are open to church members and friends at 6 PM. They hope to go to three and possibly four Sundays a month.

The many outreach programs now take up almost every evening of the week except Saturday. Our Food Pantry feeds and clothes dozens each week through the hard work of Jean and Jim Miller. Wesley Dinners, under the able leadership of Barbara Becker and her dedicated committee, have been feeding the hungry for many years now and each Thanksgiving. AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meets Monday and Tuesday evenings, and on major holidays. NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meets every Friday evening. Recovery also uses our church Friday evenings to help others. ESL (English as a Second Language) meets Tuesday evening. Our church was the first in the area to work with Head Start. Early Head Start now uses the entire first floor of Wesley Hall. Bible Study is held every Wednesday evening at 7 P.M. by Debbie and Don Kolacki. All are welcome.

The church yard sale in September was a great success. There was a large turn out of the congregation to bring and buy items. It gave many of us a chance to see how well Pastor and Ivette take care of the parsonage. What a transformation, the yard looks great. Thank you both for your hard work. Pastor cooked hot dogs and hamburgers for the workers and for selling to a few of our customers. Thanks to new members Janice and John Hofmann for supplying the hot dogs and rolls. Later Steve Rice bought more hot dogs, hamburgers and rolls. He also supplied coffee and donuts. Bob Prince invited our customers to come and worship with us on Sundays. Thanks to all who made it a great day.

Our Senior MYF meets during Sunday School with Don Kolacki, our "Children's Moments" narrator. The MYF will be our lay speakers and ushers on one Sunday each month. They did a great job on October 7, Communion Sunday.

The Junior MYF, under the leadership of Raquel Miller, will be participating in the Lupus Walk at Eisenhower Park on Sunday, October 21. The walk begins at 10 AM, but you must register at 8:30. Those interested in participating can call Raquel at 224-5199. You can register on line at www.lupusliquleensls.org/walkalongforlupus. Flyers are available at church. For more information call 1-800-850-9000.

The Junior MYF will be participating the first Saturday of each month in the Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang mission. The sandwiches are made on an assembly line basis, and help feed some 130,000 people on Long Island each week. Churches and other groups vol-

unteer to make sandwiches each week at numerous locations. Our kids have to be at the Commack UMC at 8 AM. Our kids need your help in this mission. Volunteers are always appreciated to drive and help making sandwiches. Bread, peanut butter, jelly, paper plates, plastic sandwich bags and paper towels are needed to continue this important work.

A box will be in the office for these donations. Please support our MYF in their mission to feed the hungry on Long Island.

Many have been generously giving of their time and talents. Geri Sheridan filled in for Chris, our administrative assistant, while she was on vacation. Thank you Geri for this and all you do at the church.

Lenny Pearson, Carolyn Willis, and Jose Garcia spent more than a day trimming the shrubs around the church. Their labor of love makes our church appear so much nicer and well kept. Thanks for a job well done.

Another good steward is Bob Rogers who re-painted the steps of three of our outside staircases. Weather permitting, he hopes to paint the outside pillars and woodwork around the church street entrance to the office. For visitors, this is the first thing they see as they enter the church. A good appearance here reflects on us as a congregation.

We would like to thank new member Gary Graves for a great presentation on Masons in our Revolutionary War. This was given for the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and members of our church on October 6. After the presentation Gary worked with me to change

the clogged leaders outside the sanctuary facing South Ocean Avenue.

Thanks to George Hoag we have received a six month extension for the matching grant from the New York State Sacred Sites Fund. We have raised \$12,000 of the \$25,000 we need to have our belfry restored. The grant would not have been available in time to begin work before winter sets in. Therefore it works in our favor to raise the funds so the work can begin this summer. Please continue to donate towards this important fund through using your Restoring HOPE Campaign envelopes each month.

We have evolved as a church, reaching out in mission to those in need in our community. We also need to evolve in how we perceive our giving of tithes and offerings. You have already received letters and filled out LOVE cards for our church. Kathie Wells and the Stewardship Committee initiated an exciting Stewardship program: "Extravagant Generosity, The Heart of Giving." This approach encourages heart change and embraces generosity as a core value of personal discipleship. Read Tom Bracken's article in this issue of the LINK for more information. Look to Tom's stewardship articles in the future. I hope that my articles have developed a pride and encouraged you to participate more in the life of our church.

May God bless you and our church.

—Dave Hollowell

Remember the Church in Your Will

### Stewlabration



In what Bizarro World\* does Stewardship = Celebration? After all, Coach Kathie, GM Ernesto "I love you all" (see October Link for marginallyclever metaphor) and the entire Team have been proclaiming this month of Stewardship as a time of Celebration; and Water-boy Tom still hasn't run off

at the mouth about money. Yet. What gives? Do the two terms share any common ground at all?

Okay, work with me here. One of the definitions of Stewardship is "Active concern with the direction of the affairs of an organization"; a definition of Celebration is "To observe a notable occasion with festivities". And so, for our purposes, the common-ground definition might be: "A time of active, involved concern for our church, which we lift up to God with joy, prayer, and thanksgiving".

And the word would be... "Stewlabration".

As you read this, we are well into our month of Stewardship challenges. So far, you have heard testimonials from several of your Brothers and Sisters; filled out your Heart Cards and seen them posted all over our church; and – hopefully – been praying for discernment and vision as to what Patchogue UMC will be doing as it enters 2013. You've also been getting letters from our committee fairly regularly, and I trust that the mailing costs we are laying out from our own pockets are not taking a quick dive into the circular file or the recycle bin...

Last month, I challenged each and every one of you for your Vision and Prayer. While many of us have reasons that we cannot give a commitment of \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank: time, service, money, etc.), NONE of us have an excuse for a lack of prayer and vision—it just takes a little bit of thought, humility, and being open to the gifts and miracles that Jesus showers on us every day. After all, the ultimate purpose of our church is to give glory to God, right? And the best way to do that is to reach out in ministry, right? Won't somebody say "Amen"?

And so, enjoy and savor this time of Stewlabration. (Okay, it's just one of those Tom-words – deal with it!) Think of it as a request for each of you to search his or her heart, and ask if you're doing everything you can to make our church a Model of Ministry. And if, perhaps, you might do a little bit more...

-Yours in Christ, Tom Bracken

\* With apologies to Mr. Mxyzptlk. And if you don't know what I'm talking about, and never read Action Comics or Superman, then Google it! I'm too busy Stewlabrating!

### Hear Our Sermons and Watch Our Services Online

Click on the Links at www.PatchogueUMC.org

### United Methodist Church of Patchogue November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	3 8:00 p.m.— Salvation Army Band Concert
9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Church Council 2-4 p.m.—Marcelo Lucero Vigil	5 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	6 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	7 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	8 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	10
9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance	12 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	13 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	14 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	15 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	17 9:30 a.m.—UMW
9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Confirmation Class	7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	20 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	21 7:00 p.m.— Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Church of The Nazarene	22 11:00 a.m— Thanksgiving Meal	23 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	24
25 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	26 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	27 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	28 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	29 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	30 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	

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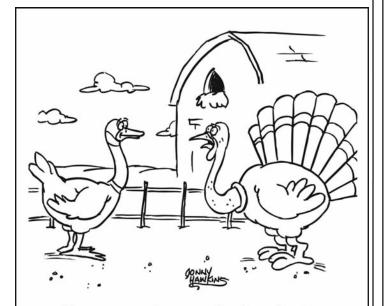
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"I'm praying they opt for fast food... or that they pray and fast."

### **Thanksgiving Day Prayer**

O God, when I have food,

help me to remember the hungry;

When I have work,

help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home,

help me to remember those who have no home at all;

When I am without pain,

help me to remember those who suffer,

And remembering,

help me to destroy my complacency;

bestir my compassion,

and be concerned enough to help;

By word and deed,

those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Amen.

—Samuel F. Pugh

### **Did Jesus Have A Wife?**

If Jesus had been married, don't you think Paul or the biblical Gospel writers would have mentioned it?

That's the question many Christians have raised after the announcement by Harvard Divinity School professor Karen L. King of a fourth-century papyrus fragment in the Egyptian language Coptic that includes the phrase: "Jesus said to them, my wife."

Some scholars already have raised concerns that the fragment — which is of unknown provenance — could be a forgery meant to look like something 1,700 years old.

But even if it is authentic, King and United Methodist scholars of early Christianity are quick to emphasize that the discovery offers no evidence about the historical Jesus. It does not prove Jesus was married.

For one thing, there's a greater distance between any fourth-century document from Jesus' day than between a document from ours and George Washington's. King speculates that the fragment she labels the "Gospel of Jesus' Wife" might be a translation of an earlier Greek text from the second half of the second century, but even that possibility puts it significantly later than Paul's letters and the biblical Gospels.

"Rather, the importance of the 'Gospel of Jesus's Wife' lies in supplying a new voice within the diverse chorus of early Christian traditions about Jesus that documents that some Christians depicted Jesus as married," says a draft of King's research paper to be published in the January 2013 issue of the Harvard Theological Review.

Still, this small piece of papyrus, no bigger than a cell phone, already has reignited an old debate about Jesus' marital status — one that long predates "The Da Vinci Code's" climb on the U.S. best-seller lists.

Many religion scholars, including United Methodists and those at United Methodist-related universities and seminaries, see the find as a teaching opportunity.

"I think we should take it very seriously as an example of debates going on in early Christianity," said Mark A. Chancey, a United Methodist lay person and professor of religious studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He recently co-authored a book on the archaeology of early Judaism and Christianity, "Alexander to Constantine: Archaeology of the Land of the Bible."

"It gives us perspective on the debates we're having in our own day about who is suited in leadership roles in the church and who is regarded as worthy of having special insight. The particulars are different, but in their own way, these are still very live issues in our own church," he continued. "What we are seeing increasingly is that early Christianity was more diverse and less static than we often imagine."

#### Scripture and the historical Jesus

The New Testament makes no mention of whether Jesus was married. Likewise, even previously discovered Gnostic gospels and other extra-canonical texts leave his marital status open to question.

As Chancey put it, the fragment is the first found that makes "specific mention of a Mrs. Jesus."

A number of scholars of the New

Testament and early Christianity, including Chancey, find that silence telling.

"I think it is possible but unlikely that Jesus was married," said Mark Goodacre, associate professor of religion at Duke University in Durham, N.C. Goodacre has posted multiple entries on the find at his New Testament blog.

Ben Witherington III, New Testament professor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., notes that Jesus as itinerant preacher likely did not have time for conventional family life.

"He was more than a little busy bringing in God's Kingdom, healing the sick, etc.," said Witherington, who is an ordained United Methodist elder and has a Ph.D. "Even when he goes home, say in Mark 6, there is no evidence he has his own house or family there. It's only his brothers, sisters and mother who are referred to as his family."

Joel B. Green, an ordained United Methodist elder and associate dean of the Center for Advanced Theological Studies at the evangelical Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., raises a possible interpretation of the fragment.

"Jesus' reference to 'my wife' could be a metaphorical reference to the church. This would be a departure from texts that refer to the church as the bride (not the wife) of Christ, but this possibility ought to be considered," said Green, who was New Testament editor of the Common English Bible.

Continued On Page 8



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

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### Did Jesus Have A Wife (from Page 7)

#### Would it matter if Jesus were married?

Green and other United Methodist scholars agree that if it ever were proved that Jesus had been married, it would not make much difference to United Methodist conception of Jesus as divine and human.

"We believe that Jesus shared completely in our humanity, and this belief wouldn't be changed at all were we to have proof that he was married," Green said.

Jim L. Papandrea, a Catholic layperson and assistant professor of church history at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., said such a revelation might have some impact on Catholic theology.

"I think it would make a difference, in the sense that so much of the monastic life is based on the assumption that people who are called to voluntary celibacy are following in Jesus' footsteps," said Papandrea, author of "Reading the Early Church Fathers," from Paulist Press.

"If it could be proven that Jesus was married, that would call into question a part of the basis for religious orders, and perhaps for a celibate priesthood. However, I would be quick to add that the assumption that Jesus was unmarried is not the only justification for these things, so it's not as though the rug would be pulled out from under them, so to speak. But it would raise some discussion."

### —Heather Hahn, UM News Service



Nov. 2 Alec Lenhard

Nov. 10 Kiley Keeley

Nov. 11 Nicole Burch Christian McMillin

Nov. 12 Eliza DeCarlo Kyle MacDougall

Nov. 16 Josie Hoag

Nov. 17 Jenisa Deabreu

Leah Kinlaw-Purificato

Nov. 19 Desiree Lanzetta

Nov. 24 Sabrina Chae

Nov. 27 Matthew Masem

Nov. 28 Jake Scala
Ricky Siems