

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

April 2008 Edited By George Hoag

Dear Congregation



At the conclusion of worship on Mar. 30 I announced that I would be appointed to St. Paul's UMC in Staten Island, NY, on July 1st.

St. Paul's is located on the southern shore of Staten Island, in the village of Totenville. It is about an hour's travel time from my family who lives in New Jersey.

As a single person in ministry, I yearn to be closer to my family. Still, the decision to accept this new appointment was difficult.

You, too, have been a family to me, and I have loved being in mission and ministry with you over the past five years.

As much as I look forward to being with my family during the Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays, I will miss spending those times in Patchogue.

Please be certain that Bishop Park and our cabinet will appoint a new pastor who can meet the needs of all members of our congregation.

Worship Notes

April 6—3rd Sunday of Easter. Lectionary Readings: Psalm 116:1-4, 16-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35. Sermon Title: *Sunday Dinner*. The theme for this worship time is Discipleship: Call and Response.

April 13—4th Sunday of Easter. Lectionary Readings: Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10; Sermon Title: *One Flock, One Shepherd*. This week, the theme for worship is Shepherding: Sleeping At The Gate.

April 20—5th Sunday of Easter. Lectionary Readings: Psalm 31:1-5; Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14. Sermon Title: *Have you Seen The Messiah?* The theme for worship this week is Untroubled Hearts: The way, the truth, and the life.

April 27—6th Sunday of Easter. Rev. Stevens will be away at General Conference this week. During worship time, Christian artist Frank Rendo will be with us, in concert. Bruce Kirschner & Ken Miller will coordinate worship this week.

Our district superintendent, who is a member of the bishop's cabinet, will contact the chair of our congregation's Staff Parish Relations Committee to arrange the details needed for the appointment of your new pastor.

In the meantime, we will continue doing the work God lays before us in the Patchogue area.

Thank you for the kindnesses you have shown me during our time together.

Grace & Peace,

—Rev. Stevens

"When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams."

Numbers 12:6, NIV



Circle of Concern

For Joys:

The marriage of Blake Johnson and Mildred Valderrama. Katie Weber's friend Steven Santiago has returned safely from Iraq. The Campaniles have a new granddaughter, Marina Elsa Dunbar, born Feb. 22. Jessica and Frank Nuzzo's new son (and Barbara Schroeder's grandson), Gavin Anthony, born Mar. 11, 6lbs, 15oz, 19 and 3/4" long.

For Bereavement:

Family and Friends of: John Williford, John Emerson Bransford, Ruth Siebert, Kathleen Chinard, Judy Hatton, Helen Redding, Louise Flood.

For: Billy Drew and his family, Sherwood and Barbara Cooper and the Hamm family, Marge Prince & family, Pat O'Shea and family.

For Guidance:

Steven Santiago, Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, David & Lori Purificato, Ray Gallo, Elizabeth Tucker, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Brenda Bonfe D'Angelo, the Stawecki family, Maria Spera and family.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Doug Brown, Julie Cangro, Deborah Belmonte, Joe Schievone, Alicia Sophabmixay, Marge Kirkup, Vincent Maggio, Maggie Reynolds, Warren Davis, Liam Keady, Mike Welsh, Alicia (in the Janet Weiss Children's Hospital in Scranton, PA).

These at Home:

Lucille Barthelme, Jean Miller, Wayne Stawecki, Henry Prince, Wendy Hollowell and her mother, Maria Agtuco, Ed Leddin, Sr., Dave Hollowell, Aunt Lee Kraemer, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Rick Healy, Lisa Ann Manginelli, Catherine Cullen, Tom Furman, Jessica Nuzzo, Krysten Wagonberg, Antonio Salgada, Ann Mazie Diema, Robert and Don DeLaVergne, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Carol Knapp, Joan and Richard Simpson, Mary Ceaser, Aunt Lee Kraemer, Margaret Prince, Josephine and Louis Adone, Ed Erdmann, Ruth Masem, and Kitty Dayton.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

George and Shirley Strauss; Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue; Anna Satterly in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue; Lew and Kitty Brunner in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches; NY 11934; Gerry Flood in St James Nursing Home (room 269) 273 Moriches Rd., St. James, NY 11780; Doris Shrimpton in Bellhaven Nursing Center, 110 Beaverdam Rd., Brookhaven, NY 11719; Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue; Marian King in Sunrise Assisted Living, 2 Hills Rd., Rm 2.E. Setauket, NY 11733; Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg., Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205; Toby Miller, Room 213B, Affinity Skilled Living and Rehabilitation Center, 305 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, NY 11769.

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

Mothers Day Plants

Mom's love to get flowers. They also like to plant them around their home.



Whether you are a Mom, a Dad, or someone who loves to plant flowers, you will want to

order from our church plant sale.

Pre-orders will be taken for flats of flowers, herbs and vegetables as well as hanging baskets from a local grower. Your order can be picked up on Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Single flowers for Mom and a limited number of flats will be sold that day in front of the church.

Pre-orders are recommended to ensure you get the flowers that you want. Order sheets are included in this **Link** issue, and will also be available at church in the Cloud Room. The forms should be returned to the Church Office once completed.

Support your church by purchasing your spring plants at the Mother's Day Plant Sale.



Stewards

On Dec. 28, a group of good stewards gathered to strip and re-wax the floors of Wesley Hall. Ray Henson co-ordinated this work with his wife, Sharon, Dave Hollowell, Bob Krawczyk, Jim Miller, Steve and his son, Stevey, and George Roessler. We owe a debt of gratitude to these people for making Wesley Hall look better, while saving a major expense to the church.

Our church is composed of many good stewards. Barbara Becker is chairperson of the United Methodist Woman and a Lay Leader. Lorraine Brenner and volunteers provide refreshments every Sunday after church. Selma Graham provides Healing Services for our congregation. George Hoag edits **The Link**, is vice president of Trustees, and chairs the Finance Committee. Ed Klingel, chairman of the Trustees, also has chaired the Golf Tournament Committee for the last two years.

Bill Loris will do members' income tax returns for the congregation and give half the fee back to the church as a donation. Trudy Mansfield is a counter, co-ordinates the ushers and was collecting used coats for the children in the Ukraine. The Food Pantry is run by Jim Miller. Bob Prince and his family hosted the Saint Patrick's Day Dinner. He organized the Palm Sunday Breakfast and then the Easter Flower Sale with the United Methodist Men.

Bruce and Carol Kirshner founded and continue to run the Soul~Food Coffee House. Dianne Zimmerman coordinates acolytes and Diane Artus coordinates Missions for Sunday School. Ken Miller is the Dean of Lay

Speakers. He works with Rev. Stevens to coordinate worship leaders when the pastor is away from the congregation on Sunday.

The Counters were named in the December Link and have been joined by Kathleen Wells and Tom Bracken. Recent members Greg Davidowitch and Bob Smith organized the first annual Thanksgiving Day dinner in 2007. June Barile and her sister Val Ward have been developing a Membership Committee to bring our members back to the fold. The Church Council, chaired by Joan Curtis, governs the Church. This committee is open to the entire congregation for their participation, and meets bi-monthly. Our Sunday School is staffed by Kathy Loris, Breda Miller, Jennifer Rogers and Denise Whalen. The Altar Guild, co-ordinated by Geri Sheridan, provides flowers on our altar every Sunday for those who want to honor or memorialize loved ones of our church family. She also is chairing the Golf Tournament this year. Our choir, under the direction of Martha Campanile with our organist, Anna Vinnitsky, provide inspiring music. A grateful thank you to our hard working secretary, Kathleen D'Angelo. All these people and many more under the direction of our pastor, Rev. Judith Stevens, are striving to make our worship and fellowship at the United Methodist Church of Patchogue better!

In January the Suffolk Water Authority informed our church that we would have to install a New York State mandated backflow valve. This valve prevents water within our facility from reentering the system and contaminating the water supply. Ray Henson co-ordinated this project with the Water

Authority. Ray, with the support of the Trustees and the help of Dave Hollowell, installed the valve. This generous donation of his time and talents saved the Church many thousands of dollars. Thank you Ray and your wife Sharon for all you do for our congregation.

There are probably others. It is always difficult to remember everyone who gives time and talent to the ministry of our congregation. Please know that whatever your gift of time and talent may be, it is blessed by God and appreciated by your church family..

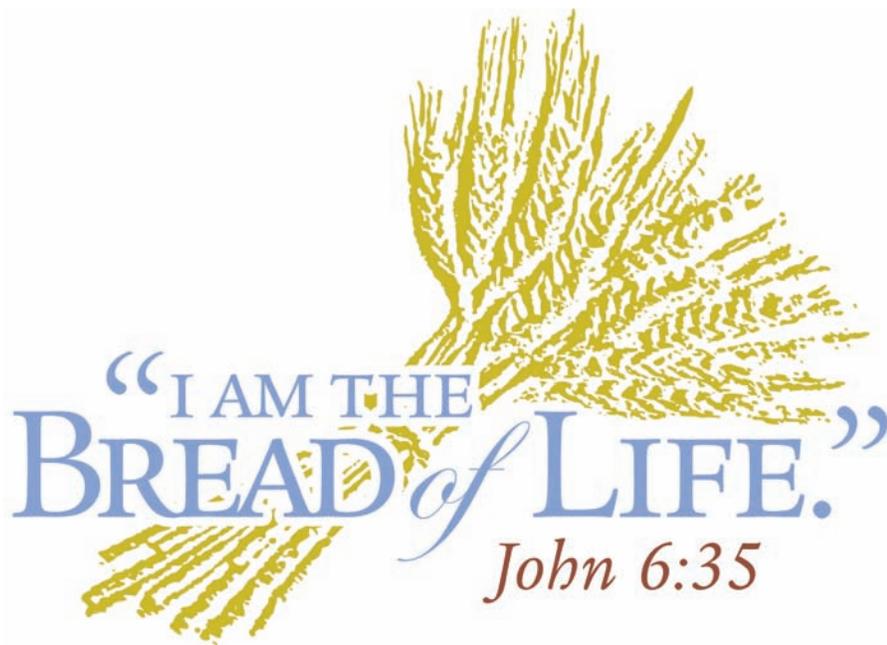
Food Pantry

Jim Miller collects and buys food with the donations from our congregation. He needs our help! Please save those large brown paper shopping bags and bring them to the office. Those large Wendy's fast food bags or any large shopping bag with handles are great. Jim will fill them with food for those in our community in need. Thank you.



Please have all material for the May **Link** ready by Friday, Apr. 19. Send it to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



Stewardship Thoughts

Through pledges, contributions, and fund raising, faithful stewards in our church family are working diligently to provide the financial resources necessary to run our programs, participate in mission and ministry around the Patchogue area, and give our fair share of apportionment to worldwide missions. I encourage everyone to pledge or contribute regularly; we do not want to come up short. Also, contribute by participating to our fund raisers. Our 3rd Annual Golf Outing will be held at the Bellport Country Club this year, and we are co-hosting the fund raiser with Camp Quintipet. A committee is already at work, planning our 2nd Annual Chinese Auction, date tba. The Mothers' Day Plant Sale, May 10th, provides another opportunity to contribute financially to our church.

Here's part of an article from one of my clergy listserv postings that really made me stop and evaluate my financial support to our church and the wider United Methodist connectional system. I share it, hoping you will glean something useful from it, as well.

“One day on Sesame Street the word of the day was “there.” And Grover, in his usual exuberant self went looking for the word. But whenever he asked someone about the location of ‘there’ they would point somewhere else and say that’s where “there” was. But when he went to where they told him to go, he was told that he was ‘here’ and ‘there’ was, well – “over there.” Poor Grover, he never did quite get to ‘there.’ He was always wherever he was, which was ‘here.’

A lot of folks’ belief system is that happiness is to be found in that thing over ‘there’ - in the next promotion, the next purchase, the next bigger house - when in reality it is to be found right “here” where we are.

We might ask the question, “If I’m making \$45,000 a year, do I believe I am poor and hardly getting by, or do I believe I am in the top 2% of the world’s richest people?” The latter statement is true and while it may also be true that we’re hardly getting by, (for reasons that are often of our own doing) it’s not true that we are poor.

One of my heroes is 85 years old,
Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

has a pace maker and a number of other fairly significant physical ailments. But he is mobile and lives with his wife in the modest home in which they raised six children. He said that people frequently ask him how he’s doing.

He answers that of all the other people born in 1923, only 7% are still alive; less than half of them can get around unassisted; and few of them still live in their own homes. So as best he can figure, he’s about in the top .3% of 85 year olds so he believes he’s doing pretty well! And because he believes it he acts like it.”

We are not different from this man. As we believe, so do we act. If we believe we are blessed by God, our actions should be those of thankful stewards who return a portion of our abundance to God. The offering we give through our church can touch the lives of others throughout the world. Our United Methodist connectional system reaches the “uttermost parts of the earth,” to bring God’s grace and love to the 98% of the world’s population who are not among the world’s richest people. Supporting our local church means that our children will learn about God’s love for them, and the blessings God bestows upon them and their responsibility to share those blessings with others.

My prayer for you, and for me, is that we can help each other believe the best about ourselves, our situations and the God who loves us and wants us to “get it right” in the financial arena of our lives. Let’s trust in God and do good.

—Rev. Stevens

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>2</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—BAFFA Rehearsal	<i>3</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship/UMW Soup 11:30 a.m.—Teachers Meeting 11:30 a.m.—Youth 1–3 p.m.—PRAAT Training	<i>7</i> 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>8</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>9</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—BAFFA Rehearsal	<i>10</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>11</i> 6:00 p.m.— Patchogue Nursery School Chinese Auction at South Ocean Avenue Mid- dle School	<i>12</i> 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. —Defensive Driving Class
<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee 4:30 p.m.—BAFFA Concert	<i>14</i> 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>15</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>16</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	<i>17</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 9:30 a.m.—UAW Meeting
<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Church Council 11:30 a.m.—Youth Group 7 p.m.—Healing Prayer Service	<i>21</i> 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>22</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>23</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	<i>24</i> 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Church School/Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	<i>28</i> Golf Outing, Bellport Country Club 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>29</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>30</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class			

UMC.Org Reviews *Penelope*



Production
Company: Summit
Entertainment;
Director: Mark
Palansky; Cast:
Christina Ricci,
James McAvoy,
Catherine O'Hara,

Peter Dinklage, Richard E. Grant,
Reese Witherspoon; Rating: PG for
thematic elements, some innuendo and
language.

By Gregg Tubbs

(UMC.org)—As fairy tales go, the delightful new film *Penelope* is almost austere. Its only fantastical element is a rather unexceptional looking pig's snout. The problem is that this snout is on the face of an otherwise beautiful young woman whose only wish is to find true love and live a "normal" life. But what is normal? How can you know that love is true, that there are no ulterior motives? And if "beauty is only skin deep," what about the real beauty deep inside *Penelope*? With wit, humor and a sly, knowing wink, *Penelope* invites the whole family on a whimsical journey in search of self, acceptance, and most of all, love.

In an era obsessed with outward appearances—from Botox and tummy-tucks to extreme makeovers and teenage nose jobs—*Penelope* is a fairy tale for our times and a parable about outward appearance versus inner reality. In particular, the film explores the way in which we try to conform and present an acceptable and attractive outer façade, despite our flawed—even ugly—interior.

Like many fairy tales, *Penelope* starts out with a witch and a curse that

can only be broken by the power of true love. Set in an unnamed modern-day city, the movie tells the story of the wealthy and snobbish Wilhern family and the curse brought on them by their callow son. He broke the heart of a servant girl he truly loved by marrying a fellow "blue blood" socialite who was more acceptable to his family. Distraught, the servant girl flings herself off a cliff, and the uncaring Wilherns go about their business. But the girl's mother is a witch and exacts revenge by putting a curse on the Wilhern family: The next daughter born to the Wilherns will have the face of a pig and only a "love of her own kind" will break the spell and return her face to human beauty.

Several generations are untouched by the curse until finally a girl is born, and sure enough, in the middle of the baby's face is a big, round, up-turned snout. Sheltered by her embarrassed parents (Richard E. Grant and Catherine O'Hara), *Penelope* (Christina Ricci) matures into an otherwise beautiful young woman—educated, sensitive, loving and kind. A virtual prisoner in her own home, *Penelope* is visited by a steady stream of suitors of "her own kind"—fellow "blue bloods"—who are lured in by the promise of a massive dowry. But can any of them stand the sight of the rumored "pig girl" and offer true love so pure that the spell will be broken? One suitor in particular, Max (James McAvoy), may hold the answers—if he is indeed what he appears.

Employing a light, tongue-in-cheek style reminiscent of *The Princess Bride*, *Penelope* is a satisfying family-friendly film with a number of positive messages. Doe-eyed Christina Ricci is

perfectly cast as *Penelope*, who spends much of the film with her face covered, acting mainly with her beautiful and expressive eyes. Co-producer Reese Witherspoon plays a supporting role as the down-to-earth woman who introduces *Penelope* to the real world outside of her overtly class-conscious home, and Peter Dinklage rounds out the cast as a tabloid reporter obsessed with exposing the "pig-faced girl."

The film's main message is as plain as the nose on *Penelope*'s face: We should never judge people by their outward appearance. *Penelope*'s outward appearance sent her handsome, well-dressed suitors scrambling away once they got their first glimpse of her. Such a reaction reflects their own internal shallowness and "ugliness," despite their tailored suits and blueblood pedigrees. The film pokes fun at the superficiality of pop culture and the hypocrisy of class discrimination and financial snobbery, while also reminding us that before we can be loved, we must first believe ourselves as worthy of love.

As Christians, we are guided by Jesus' refusal to judge a person on the basis of appearance or social status. He befriended the sick, the lowly, the outcasts—those deemed unacceptable by the "proper" society of his day—and found them worthy of forgiveness and grace. In Matthew, Jesus chastises the Pharisees for their hypocrisy: "You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence" (Mt. 23:25). As a modern-day parable, *Penelope* serves as a clever and good natured reminder that it's what's inside a person that counts and that even a girl with the face of a pig can have the heart of a princess.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Tel (631) 207-0800
Fax (631) 846-1115

Kenneth D. Levine
Attorney at Law

475 E. Main St., Suite 104
Patchogue, NY 11772
folklawyer@optonline.net

Correspondence:
P.O. Box 2693
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779



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The Link



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Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.
Supervised Nursery during worship.



Golf

Our 2008 Golf Classic will be held on Monday, April 28 at Bellport Country Club. Bellport is a new location for us, but it's one that should prove attractive to golfers.

The 18 hole "Bellport" course at the Bellport Country Club facility features 6,234 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 71. The course rating is 70.1 and it has a slope rating of 118. Designed by Seth Raynor, the Bellport

golf course opened in 1899.

It will be a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start, with registration and lunch beginning at 11:30. Cocktails and dinner will follow play.

This year, we are doing a joint effort with Camp Quinipet and they are helping us find golfers. As we found out the last two years, we don't seem to have many golfers in our church. It is critical, however, that we recruit at least 18 foursomes. So if you have any relatives, or neighbors or friends who play, please let them know. If you have any contact information that would be helpful to us, please let us know. We will also be seeking items for prize packages. Geri Sheridan is the Golf Committee Chair.

Youth Fellowship Event

All youth are invited to come bowling on Sunday, Apr. 6, from 3:00–5:00 p.m.. We will meet at the Sayville Bowling Alley (5660 Sunrise Highway, Sayville). The cost will be \$3.25 per game and \$4.35 for shoe rental. If you want to call the bowling alley for more information, their phone number is (631) 567-8900.

Apr 20—Church Council meets directly after worship, so youth group will either order lunch or go out to lunch during that time, then our meeting will begin at 12:15 - 12:30. The topic will be "How To Raise Your Parents." We'll finish by 2 PM. (We need a parent or two who will not be attending the Church Council meeting to coordinate lunch.)

- This Month's Birthdays*
- 04/02 Eireann McGrath
 - 04/04 Andrew Horan
 - 04/04 Emma Christiansen
 - 04/07 Leonard Trionfo
 - 04/07 Jillian Leahy
 - 04/09 Lucas DeCarlo
 - 04/09 James Rose
 - 04/11 Emily Frey
 - 04/13 Jay-Lynn Lynch
 - 04/15 Sara Okun
 - 04/17 TJ Ryan
 - 04/18 John Armstrong
 - 04/20 Erica McDowell
 - 04/21 Dawn McDowell
 - 04/22 Haley Merritt
 - 04/24 Andrei Gamcsik
 - 04/25 William Alfonso-Zea
 - 04/25 Sarah Biederman
 - 04/26 Stephanie Smith
 - 04/26 Richard Zappa
 - 04/27 Matthew Erdmann
 - 04/27 Olivia Lipponer
 - 04/28 Christine Petrosian