

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

April 2009

Edited By George Hoag

Easter

This is a time of year when things are coming to life all around us. The birds are singing, grass is growing, and flowers are blooming.

What a deep appreciation we can have for the life of Christ when we pause and reflect on the darkness of His death. From the moment Jesus was born, we know that the Cross was always in the horizon and with each passing year not only did the Cross get nearer, but the ultimate victory as well...the Resurrection!

The Bible makes it clear as well that Jesus looked far beyond the Cross:

Hebrews 12:2b "...who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." We know that He now sits at the right hand of the throne of God and is presently making intercession for each one of us as we go through our "dark moments" of life.

Jesus Is Alive, and that is why He is worthy of our love and devotion as we worship Him for Who He is and What He does.

I want to take this moment to encourage you and your family to join us on Easter Sunday, April 12, as we

Continued on Page 2

Worship in April

Apr. 5 (Palm/Passion Sunday)—Music and Dramatic Reading based on the Gospel of Matthew, "And Him Crucified"

Apr. 9 (Holy Thursday)—Exodus 12:1-4,11-14; John 13:1-7, 31b-35, Service: 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 10 (Good Friday)—Service: 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 12 (Easter Sunday)—Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8; "Christ is Risen, Indeed!", Rev. In Koo Chung.

Apr. 19 (2nd Sunday of Easter)—Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31; Lay Speaker June Barile.

Apr. 26 (3rd Sunday of Easter)—Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48; "Touch and See", Rev. In Koo Chung.



Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

Family and friends of Jan Boyd.

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, David & Lori Purificato, Ray Gallo, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Brenda Bonfe D'Angelo, Christy Wood, Samantha, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Ernie Titus, Philip Demacos, Pat, Joanne, and Connor.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Howard Alt, Baby Joseph, Mike Welsh.

These at Home:

Betty Hansley, Cliff McLean, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Eric & Pat Carlson, Nancy Rogers, Martha Campanile, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Lucille Barthelme, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Ruth Masem, Billy Lattazino, Shirley Scalice, Florence Carde, Frank Westerland, Elizabeth Biederman, Paul Rice, Grace Richardson, John and Lauren Saas Reynolds.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY; Anna Satterly in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue, NY 11772; Lew and Kitty Brunnemer 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; Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue; Marian King in Sunrise Assisted Living, 2 Hills Rd., E. Setauket, Rm. 2; Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg., Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205; Toby Miller (Room 213B) in Affinity Skilled Living and Rehabilitation Center, 305 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, NY 11769; Joan Simpson, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, 101 Elm Street, Sayville, NY 11782.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Welcoming the Sojourner

Where Faith and Immigration Intersect



Saturday, April 18, 10:00-2:00

**Patchogue United Methodist Church
10 Church Street, Patchogue, NY 11772**

Easter (from Page 1)

once again look at the reality of the Resurrection of our Savior. Invite a friend to come with you for this very special day.

Col. 1:18

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”

Jesus Is Alive!

—**Pastor, In Koo, Chung**

An Easter Prayer

We thank you, O Lord, for Easter: for the ways it kindles our awareness of who Jesus was and what he was about; of who you are and what you are about; of who we are and what we are about. In Jesus your character and our destiny were joined, and you promised that his work would not end with his death. And You kept your promise. Not only did the apostles take you at your word, they took your word to the world.

When we compare our faith with theirs, O God, we are humbled. They were bold; we are timid. They turned the crucifixion into a model for discipleship; we turn discipleship into an alternative to crucifixion. They interpreted Easter as a summons to choose between divine and human rule, we interpret Easter as a divine sanction on human rule. They received the resurrection as a call for radical decision; we receive it as proof of our ultimate security. They identified the suffering servant with the Risen Lord; we glorify the risen Lord at the expense of the suffering servant.

Forgive us, O God, for separating Good Friday from Easter; for believing

Continued on Page 3

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

Immigration - Part II

One of the most frequent criticisms of undocumented immigrants is, "They're breaking the law!" (This is usually spoken in a tone of righteous indignation) The clear implication is that they are therefore criminals and should be treated as such.

Did you know that to enter this country without paperwork or overstay a visa, is a violation of the Civil code of the United States, NOT the Criminal code? If you violate a traffic ordinance—speeding for example, you are breaking a civil law. Chances are, unless there are other circumstances, eg: an expired license, you are not going to be put in handcuffs and hauled off to jail. Yet, that is exactly how undocumented immigrants are treated for breaking the civil laws concerning immigration. They are arrested, handcuffed, transported to detention centers, with little or no due process or even opportunity to notify family members.

In the past year, there were two major raids by the federal government of factories that employed large numbers of undocumented workers - one in the mid-west, one in the south.

Who were these people arrested in the middle of their workday? Were they drug dealers, thieves, murderers, CEO's of major banking institutions? No, they were people not so unlike you and I. People who worked hard every day to support their families. People

who hoped for a better life for their children—not a life of luxury, but one infinitely healthier and with more opportunity than was possible in the small towns and villages they migrated from. People who obeyed the criminal laws. Yet, they were torn from their families, homes, and jobs and deported or sent to languish in detention centers, while execs at AIG and other greed -

“As Christians, it is incumbent upon us to work together in good faith to develop humane, reasonable and intelligent responses to the many aspects of the issue.”

ridden corporate entities gleefully anticipated obscene bonuses paid to keep them at their jobs where they had already

failed, having succeeded only in nearly bringing down the global economy.

Sisters and brothers, what is wrong with this picture??

Let me tell you about my experience with some members of the community who have attended our ESL classes over the last few years. The very first year, we held registration during one of the hottest weeks in August. I'm talking humid, no air moving, sweat pouring down your face, hot. People arrived early and sat patiently waiting while the BOCES counselors tested language levels and filled out required paperwork. No one huffed and puffed and complained about the long wait. No one jumped up in indignation and left. Even when a number were told they would have to come back again, after waiting nearly 3 1/2 hours, no one was rude or angry. Do you know what they all said as they left? "Thank you."

I have never experienced anything but courtesy and appreciation. I see parents who are struggling financially, yet their children are always neat and clean. These are people who understand the value of education. Some students come to class dead tired after having worked from before dawn. Our ESL teacher told me of a student in one of her other ESL sections who nearly passed out during class one night. They found out he had not eaten in nearly three days! But he came to class!! Aren't these exactly the kind of people that are good for our community, our country?

Of course this is a complicated issue—there are no easy solutions. But, as Christians, it is incumbent upon us to work together in good faith to develop humane, reasonable and intelligent responses to the many aspects of the issue.

On April 18th, from 10 until 2, at our church, there will be a forum on immigration, entitled, "Welcoming the Sojourner." It will include the sources of global migration, Biblical and theological foundations of welcoming and caring for immigrants, (Remember those Biblical passages I suggested you read in last month's article?) the damage done by the current focus on raids, detentions and deportations, and the burning need for a just and comprehensive immigration reform. The forum is sponsored by a number of organizations within the NY Annual Conference, including the Board of Church and Society, and United Methodist Women. Come and be a part of this learning experience. Peace.

—Barbara Becker

Stewardship

Jan Boyd and I have chaired the Stewardship Committee for several years. A long time friend, Jan was always there for you with a joke, hug or a prayer. Like so many others who knew her, I will dearly miss her. She was our sounding board and a confidant. More than forty of her Emmaus friends gathered for a prayer vigil outside here home on a cold February night. If the number of friends defines ones status in life, then Jan was an outstanding person. Our loss will be God's gain, but she will always be in our hearts.

The Saint Valentine's Day Dance was a great success. Some seventy people attended and all had a good time thanks to Steve Rice. Steve proposed the dance as a fund raiser and almost single handedly carried it through to success. The dance raised over \$1,300 for the oil tank removal. Many other people made the dance a success. Mike Amodio, "Mr. Entertainment" not only was our DJ, he sang, crooned and played several instruments – Wow! Mike also obtained the hall for us at his (Legion member)cost. Denise and Frank Whalen decorated the hall with the help of their daughter, Jennifer. Carolyn Willis Falvey and her husband Paul gathered tickets and lent a hand with other facets of the fund raiser. Thanks to all those who attended and helped with the clean up.

The Prince family again provided a great meal and wonderful St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Bob's labor of love in buying the produce to organizing the servers made the dinner a hit. He obtained the In-Not-Of Soul band for our entertainment. More than \$935 was

raised for the Church's Challenge and General Fund. Many thanks to our Church members who helped in the event. A special thanks to Don Kolacki and the members of the Patchogue-Bayport Soft Ball Team who gave us valuable help in making the dinner a great event.

The latest telethon for our Church's coming events is completed. I want to thank the many new callers for stepping in for "snowbirds" and others: Cecelia Alvarado, Diane Artus, Hoy Chae, Don Kolacki, Kevin Leahy and Lenny Pierson. We tried to contact every member, but found that many members have changed their phone numbers and not notified the Church of their new numbers. If you would like a friendly and informative call, please call the office at 475-0381 and give Chris, our secretary, your new phone number. This can be done from 9AM to 2 PM weekdays, except Wednesday. If you would rather not be called, you can call the office and ask to have your E-mail address added to the Pastors E-mail postings of Church news and events. We hope to hear from you

—**Dave Hollowell**

United Methodist Women

Bulb sale: The UMW will continue to take orders for beautiful flowering bulbs until April 18th. There are 12 different types of bulbs, including Hostas, Freesias, pink Fairy Lilies, giant Dahlias and others. They are reasonably priced, come from a reputable grower, and have a money-back guarantee. UMW will receive 50% of the total sales. If you are interested, see Suzie Conti or Barbara Becker.

The White Elephant table could

use some new items. So, if you are trying to start Spring with a decluttering clean sweep, please consider giving some of your smaller extraneous treasures to us. See Jeannie Miller for specifics.

We were all deeply saddened at the passing of our friend and sister-in-Christ, Jan Boyd. She was a faithful and hard working member of our overall church community and of United Methodist Women. She, like so many other wonderful women of our church who have gone before us, believed that being in mission and ministry is as important a part of being a Christian as saying our prayers and attending worship. We will miss her deeply, but know that heaven will be a lot livelier place for having received her spirit.

—**Barbara Becker**

Easter Prayer (from page 2)

that, because our Lord's Easter lay behind us, no Golgotha lies before us; for supposing that, because he risked everything, we need not risk anything. Forgive us, above all, for thinking that, because we praise him loudly, we need not follow him closely.

We acknowledge, O God, that our divorce of Easter from Good Friday has done us no good and others much harm. Help us to proclaim the oneness of the empty tomb and the cross, to narrow the gap between our confession and our conduct. Empower us so to live that our works will confirm the words of our Lord about true greatness. Send us into the world, as you sent him into the world, to become the victorious servants of all.

We dare to ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen

—**Pastor Wayne Jack Plumstead**

Park United Methodist Church
Bloomfield, NJ

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 8–9:30 a.m.—Palm Sunday Breakfast 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship	<i>6</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>7</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>8</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>9</i> 7:30 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>10</i> 9–Noon & 3–6 p.m.—Easter Plant Sale 7:30 p.m.—Good Friday Service	<i>11</i> 9–4 p.m.—Easter Plant Sale
<i>12</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Easter Worship	<i>13</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>14</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9:30 a.m.—UMW Meeting
<i>19</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship/ 11:30 a.m.—Finance 7:00 p.m.—Healing Service	<i>20</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>21</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Trustees	<i>27</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>28</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>29</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>30</i>		

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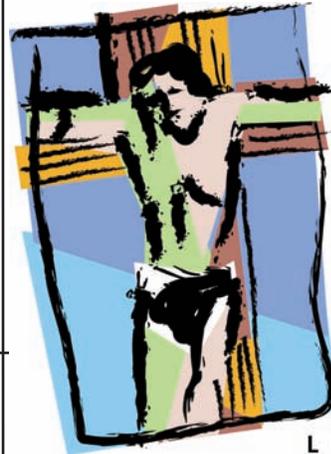
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**"FATHER,
FORGIVE THEM;
FOR THEY KNOW
NOT WHAT
THEY DO."**

LUKE 23:34, KJV

Easter Plant Sale

GOOD FRIDAY 9:00 a.m.–Noon & 3:00–6:00
p.m. (Closed in observance 12–3)

Also Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Much help is needed. PLEASE sign up in
Fellowship Hall or call office 475-0381 or Bob
Prince 576-9773

17th Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast

8:00--9:30 a.m. April 5th

ALL YOU CAN EAT

Adults \$6 Children \$4 (4--12) under 4 FREE
For tickets or to help or donate see Bob Prince
or call office 475--0381.

Set up will be Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall. Share his love, Amen!



Campbell.

"I prayed for snow on Christmas eve, Sir, and
it didn't arrive 'til Easter eve. A small computer
would clear up that backlog."

UMC.Org Reviews: Phoebe in Wonderland

Production company: THINKFilm;
Director: Daniel Barnz; Cast: Elle Fanning, Felicity Huffman, Bill Pullman, Patricia Clarkson, Campbell Scott;
Rating: PG-13 for thematic material and brief strong language.

By Gregg Tubbs

(UMC.org)—Have you ever lost yourself in a daydream or escaped to a pleasant fantasy when life got a little stressful or dull? Phoebe in Wonderland is an inventive and insightful family drama about a young girl with a vivid imagination and dreams of a special world free from problems. The film also offers an unflinching look at the challenge of parenting, especially when you have a complex, troubled child. Throughout the film, fantasy and reality freely mix and help teach lessons about love and forgiveness, about trying to see through the eyes of others and about the dangers of rushing to judgment.

A hit at last year's Sundance Film Festival, Phoebe in Wonderland is a revealing psychological drama that uses heavy doses of fantasy to explore the mind of a child with unexpected behavioral problems and the impact this has on her family, school and friends. Written and directed by newcomer Daniel Barnz, the story revolves around two characters, Phoebe (Elle Fanning), an eight year-old girl whose wild imagination masks deeper problems, and her mother (Felicity Huffman), a woman overwhelmed by the dual tasks of raising a complex, challenging child and writing a book about "Alice in Wonderland," which she feels will give her life professional validation.

Phoebe's behavior at school and at

home becomes more troubling, and she lashes out at other children and falls into obsessive, nonsensical routines. Phoebe's compulsions cause her mother to struggle with feelings of both maternal and professional failure. She resents that her husband (Bill Pullman) can continue with his work, while she neglects her book to attend to Phoebe. Salvation, of a sort, comes when the school's enigmatic drama teacher, Mrs. Dodger (Patricia Clarkson), begins auditions for a production of "Alice in Wonderland." Perhaps by chance or fate, the play and its connection to her mother's book become the catalyst for Phoebe's increasingly erratic behavior, but also ultimately draw mother and daughter closer together.

Phoebe wins the part of Alice and excels as the girl lost in a curious and confusing world. However, as she loses herself in the role, her behavior goes further downhill. She becomes convinced that she must either "pray a lot or do something she really hates" to get the part and be a great Alice. Since she's not sure there is a God, she subjects herself to a series of obsessive, ritualistic tasks: skips, jumps and handclaps on stairs that leave her with bloody knees and an increasingly panicked family. For this cycle to be broken, her parents and teachers—and Phoebe herself—must try to redefine their concept of normality, stop judging Phoebe by strict rules and assigning blame for what proves to be more complex than simple misbehavior.

In many ways, Phoebe in Wonderland provides a pointed critique of conformity, explored through the story of a girl who can only begin to understand the unique workings of her own mind by going "down the rabbit hole" into the topsy-turvy world of Wonderland. The

film also deals honestly with the challenges of being a parent as well as their human frailties. There are no perfect parents, just loving people who are doing the best they can to raise their children. This is an important lesson for Phoebe's mother who punishes herself, and indirectly her husband, over her feelings of inadequacy as a mother. Although this sounds very cerebral, the film's flights of fancy into Wonderland provide magical and emancipating moments of revelation.

The film also leads credence to Jesus' words, "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." (Mt. 7:1-2, NRSV). Everyone is quick to judge Phoebe: she's rebelling; she's "acting out"; she's selfish or undisciplined. But this rush to judgment leads to heartache. No one—especially the school's rigid principle (Campbell Scott)—has tried to understand why she is behaving as she is. Instead, like the Red Queen in "Alice in Wonderland," they want to skip the trial and go straight to the verdict. Understanding comes both through professional help and, touchingly, through the adults' recognition of themselves in Phoebe. They realize that they too occasionally have irrational urges, say things they shouldn't and are all a little "different."

I would caution that Phoebe in Wonderland is not really a children's movie, but rather a movie about childhood. The story will speak to parents, teachers or anyone who works with children, as well as anyone who has forgotten what it's like to be a child trying to make sense of the adult world. The film also celebrates the power of imagination and its ability to make life's mysteries easier to understand.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
Patchogue**
10 Church Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

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.

Address Correction Requested

Golf Tournament

Our Golf Classic 2009 will be held Monday, May 4 at Bellport Country Club.

We have made some adjustments this year to permit a lower cost per golfer and make the event more assessable for more people. Breakfast and registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and the tee off time will be 8:00 a.m. The event will conclude with lunch.

With this change we are able to reduce the per golfer cost to \$175 with foursomes priced at \$650, \$200 less than last year.

Invitations are available. Check with the church office. We will need 72 golfers so start thinking about your friends and business associates.



- 4/02 Eireann McGrath
- 4/4 Andrew Horan
- 4/4 Emma Christiansen
- 4/7 Leonard Trionfo
- 4/7 Jillian Leahy
- 4/9 James Rose
- 4/11 Emily Frey
- 4/13 Jay Lynn Lynch
- 4/15 Sara Okun
- 4/17 TJ Ryan Jr.
- 4/18 John Armstrong
- 4/20 Erica McDowell
- 4/21 Dawn McDowell
- 4/22 Haley Merritt
- 4/25 William Alfonso-Zea
- 4/27 Olivia Lipponer
- 4/28 Christine Petrosian



Lily—The Lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily is a symbol of purity and is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.

The deadline for the May edition of **The Link** is Apr. 17. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.