



TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

April 2013

Evangelism Made Easy

As you may be all be aware of by now, I really love stories and I love to learn about new insights for the journey of faith. This week I came across a great resource I thought could be helpful for us all. Being a Christian is an awesome experience and privilege, but when sharing our faith time comes along it becomes a little bit of a challenge and even intimidating for many. Take a look at the article: Blessings!

Many Christians are intimidated by the idea of sharing their faith. Jesus never intended for the Great Commission to be an impossible burden. God meant for us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ through the natural outcome of living for him. We make it complicated. We think we must complete a 10-week course on evangelism and apologetics before getting started. God designed an easy evangelism program. He made it simple for us. Karen Wolff of Christian-Books-For-Women.com shows us practical ways to share our faith simply by being an example for Christ.

Faith for Me—Then You—In That Order

There's nothing worse than somebody trying to preach to you about something going on in your life when all you can think about is finding a way to fix it. At that moment, the last thing

Continued on Page 5

Worship In April

April 7—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez. *Free to Serve God*, Psalm 118:14-29, Acts 5:27-32.

April 14—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *They Also Serve Who Stand and Wait*, Psalm 30, Acts 9:1-6 (7-20).

April 21—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Show Us Plainly Who You Are*, Psalm 23, John 10:22-30.

April 28—Glorification Singers, Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Transformation: Discipleship through Love*, Psalm 148, John 13:31-35.



Circle of Concern

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, 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 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, 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, Marybeth Losch and family, Michael Emmel, Joseph Emmel, Kim Kluge, Emily Zeh, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Jody, Victor Levine's father, Henry Prince, Caleb Edward, Ryan Cullin, Sanborn Family, Lisa, Manzolillo, Donna Horoski, Mia Heyliger, Andrew, Caleb, Susan. Ashley's baby, Steve Sotis and Daniela Sotis, Sharon and Thomas.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Debbie Fiore, 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 Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, Maureen Grippi, Debbie Turpeau, Rich Kaufold, Michael T. Battaglia, Andrew Wittman, Jr., Al Monteverdi, Henry Ohlsen, Carolyn Venator, Gladys Messias, Laura Magill, Kent Turchaniun, Erin Purce, Henry Prince, George Russler, Pasquale Arpaio, Waldon Scott, Trudy Ann Smith.

These at Home:

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick, Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in

Denmark), Sandy Burrell, 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, Don Wilson, Pat Q. Bayne, the McCarthy family, Mike Battaglia, Al Montverdi, Janet Monteverdi, Paula Rowe, Albert Eid, Thomas, Andrew Brand, Ted Davies, Ed and Brenda Klingel, Jean Miller and Bob Prince.

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.

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

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Prayer cards are located at the ushers' stations in back of the sanctuary.

Your joys & concerns are important to us; let us pray for you!

Please put completed prayer cards in the offering plate.

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

The deadline for contributions to the May edition of **TheLink** is April 5.

Please e-mail your copy to
gbhoag@optonline.net.

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

LESSONS ALONG

the Way

May God's peace be with you!

Starting this month, I will be contributing a column to **The Link** on a regular basis. Through this column I will share some of the events and awakenings in my own spiritual journey, in the hope that at least some of you can identify with them, gain some insight, or perhaps sidestep the next landmine on your own path of faith. As most of you know, it's anybody's guess what will come out of my mouth—or my brain—next, so I offer no guarantees, except for one: I will share honestly what is on my mind and in my heart...

As it happens, today's subject is "commitment". More precisely, it's about my struggle to maintain a commitment, and the consequences thereof. Last summer I mentioned to Pastor Sanchez that it might be neat if several of us could meet with him to pray together over the prayer request cards, in the spirit of "when two or more are gathered..." By some wild coincidence (that was a joke, brothers and sisters in Emmaus!) it turned into a prayer ministry that I was tasked to start and lead. This was and is a first for me, as I am not one to whom structured prayer time comes easily. The cynics among you will say, "well, what better way to learn?" And of course you would be right...

So I stumbled ahead, and wrote a little prayer service that was both structured and very flexible. ("Flexible" means, among other things, that I can sing hymns that I like under my breath as I go.) Attendance was very light, but I carried on doggedly, firm in the faith

that others would be praying along with me in spirit. I do not believe that God is limited by space or time, so if I were to pray about the same things up in CT that, say, Kathie was praying about in Patchogue, then it was a prayer meeting!

But at some point in December I lost the fire. It would be easy to say that I was involved in year-end tasks for a number of different entities; it would be even easier to say that, since almost no one was showing any interest, that maybe it was a ministry whose time had not yet come; but the simple fact is that I didn't honor my commitment. The prayer cards started mounting up in my briefcase, unrecorded and often unread; more importantly, they weren't getting into the weekly bulletins. I knew that Pastor was praying over them, and I rationalized that that was enough.

As it happens, the Certified Lay Servant class I am taking this year is "Leading in Prayer". Go figure. I had to miss the third class (Saturday March 2nd) because my lady and I were up in Maine for her brother's birthday. I took my laptop and all those un-entered prayer cards with me, and on Saturday afternoon I got everything entered through January. And while I was doing it, I felt both the power of God and the incredible weight of what I was doing. Disasters... addictions... hopelessness... staggering numbers of prayers regarding cancer, including the very young... It is an awesome – and very humbling – gift to look at these requests week after week, and lift them up in prayer, and even more indescribable when one has let them go for several months.

Fast forward to tonight (3/6) at 7PM. As I sat over at church and entered the February cards, I saw a name on the 17th that I had never seen, mentioning only that he had been hospitalized. The very next card in the pile, dated the 24th, gave the details of his wake and funeral, and said that he was the father of a member of our congregation (as it happens, this member made a huge difference in my life in the summer of 2010). I had a few of moments of utter self-disgust and self-flagellation, but then it occurred to me that, even with MY ego, it was unlikely that God changed His plans for Peter Moor based on whether I had offered him up in prayer. And then I recalled something that I heard just this afternoon (another coincidence, I suppose): "yesterday is history; tomorrow is mystery; I just have today."

And so, by God's grace, I can re-commit myself, and make my amends through this writing. But the best amends we can make is to learn from our mistakes, ask God to show us His will, and then pray for the strength and desire to carry it out. Christ never said "worship me". But he said many times: "follow me". I will continue to do that as best I can. And now I know, with much more clarity than I realized before, that prayer is a precious gift, not a responsibility or a duty, and that every time I pray in the name of Jesus I am involved in an act of Faith. It just doesn't get any better than that!

Yours in Christ,



Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Evangelism (From Page 1)

you want to see is somebody carrying a Bible, acting like they know exactly what you need and how you feel. And truth be told, when they ask you to read from their Bible, you're thinking you'd rather hit them over the head with it!

This is the very scenario that makes the concept of sharing your faith so intimidating. Most people would like to help others, but knowing what to say and how to say it stops you in your tracks. So how do share your faith without making people run and hide from you?

People can spot a phony from a mile away. The absolute worst thing you can do is say one thing and do another. If you aren't committed to applying Christian principles in your own life, you will not only be ineffective, but will be seen as insincere and phony. People aren't as interested in what you say, as they are in seeing how it's working in your life.

Here are some practical things you can do without having to say much at all:

1. One of the best ways to share your faith is to demonstrate the very things you believe by staying positive and having a good attitude even in the middle of a crisis in your own life. Remember the story in the Bible about Peter walking out onto the water when Jesus called to him? He kept walking above the water as long as he stayed focused on Jesus. But once he focused on the storm, he sank. When the people around you see the peace in your life, especially when it seems like you're surrounded by storms, you can bet they'll want to know how to get what

you've got! On the other hand, if all they see is the top of your head as you sink into the water, there's not a whole lot to ask.

2. Treat people with respect and dignity, no matter the circumstances. Whenever you have the opportunity, show how you don't change how you treat people, no matter what. Jesus treated people right, even when they mistreated Him. People around you will wonder how you're able to show this kind of respect for others. You never know, they may even ask.

3. Find ways to be a blessing to others. This not only plants amazing seeds for a harvest in your own life, it shows others that you're not a phony. It shows that you live what you believe. Saying you're a Christian is one thing, but living it in tangible ways every day is something else. The Word says, "They'll know them by their fruit."

4. Don't compromise your beliefs. Situations happen every day where compromise is not only possible, but many times is expected. Show people that your Christianity means living a life of integrity. And oh yes, that means you tell the sales clerk when she undercharged you for that quart of milk!

5. The ability to forgive quickly is a very powerful way to show how Christianity really works. Become a model of forgiveness. Nothing creates division, hostility, and turmoil more than an unwillingness to forgive the people who hurt you. Of course, there will be times when you are absolutely right. But being right doesn't give you a free pass to punish, humiliate, or embarrass someone else. And it most certainly doesn't eliminate your responsibility to forgive.

The best way to share your faith is to be an example.

People will want to know how you can be peaceful in the storm, why your kids are doing so well, why your marriage is so great, and how you know for sure about your purpose in life. And when they ask, you'll have all kinds of great stuff to share.

—Pastor Sanchez

Glorification Singers



The Glorification Singers, a four man

group based at Westhampton UMC, will join our Sunday service on April 28. They will sing and conduct the bulk of the service.

These Christian recording artists have been performing together for 23 years. They write their own original music and use contemporary Christian songs to enhance individual testimonies. You can hear their great sound at www.glorificationsingers.com.



Remember
the Church
in Your Will

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>2</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>5</i> 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>6</i> 7:00-9:00 p.m.— Bowl-a-Thon,
<i>7</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Confirmation Class	<i>8</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>9</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>10</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>11</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>12</i> 10:00 a.m.— Parkinson’s Support Group 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee	<i>15</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>16</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:00 p.m.—SPRC	<i>17</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>18</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>19</i> 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>20</i> Tea at Parsonage
<i>21</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Confirmation Class	<i>22</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>23</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>26</i> 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Glorification Sing- ers/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	<i>29</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>30</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA				

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The Stewardship Moment

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace”. Numbers 6:24-26.

In April, the wonderful holiday of Easter has come, spring is on the way, and of course no one wants to talk about money and finances in this somber—and suddenly joyous—season. Some people think of the Stewardship Committee as a perennial plant (weed?) that springs out of the ground in late October, transforms itself into a Money Tree by the end of November, and then mysteriously disappears with the first snows of December, only to reappear, phoenix-like, again the following October. What a perfect opportunity, then, to tell you more about what we do!

Stewardship is what we all do after we’ve said ‘yes’ to Jesus. In choosing to be stewards, we recognize that everything—everything—is a gift from God. Our responsibility as Christian stewards is to manage all the gifts that we have received from God, and of course that includes (but is NOT limited to) our financial gifts. God is the true owner of all that we have in life. Jesus consistently taught that our responsibility as his disciples is to recognize that God is the provider of all that we possess, and that we are called is to be generous givers. A Christian steward contributes his or her time, talents, prayers and financial resources with a willing and joyful spirit. Being a generous giver is a spiritual response to God’s goodness. It’s not just the four or five who are on the committee; we are ALL stewards of God’s possessions. Stewardship is a spiritual discipline; in other words, it’s not our way of raising money but God’s way of raising disciples.

And so, throughout the year, while we certainly seek resources and ways to raise funds in support of our local church’s ministries and functions, we also strive to find other ways of building ministries and helping others to grow in their discipleship. For example: would any of you be interested in managing household finances effectively in this (or any) economy? Companies often offer free seminars to the public in such areas (and, yes, they’d ultimately like you to buy their product, but you’re under no obligation)—why couldn’t we hold one in Wesley Hall?

Or on a more spiritual level: how about a Prayer Request Harvest? Picture a few of us walking together down Main Street on a Saturday afternoon, all carrying a handful of our pew request cards, and inviting folks to write down their prayer requests—anonously or otherwise, with no pressure—with the assurance that the congregation will pray earnestly for all those requests during Prayers and Concerns the following morning. And then, doing just that. Do you think we would be serving God and his children in that way? Could we get a better idea of the real needs of the community with those cards, needs that we might serve? Might one or two who filled out the cards come through the doors the following morning in skepticism, only to leave touched by God’s love? And in case you’re wondering whether there is a precedent for this kind of wacky, radical behavior, refer to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, the letters of Paul, James...

Each one of us is on the Stewardship Committee—our Leader is Jesus Christ. May God bless and keep us all.

**—Your fellow servants on your
Stewardship Committee**

I Know How That Feels

I recently sat in awe and amazement at Roswell (Ga.) United Methodist Church as they threw open the doors to hundreds of hurting people who are caught in the misery of being unemployed. This church near Atlanta holds a job-networking ministry every second and fourth Monday and unfortunately, it is really needed.

I sat at the table for young adults and heard the heartbreaking story of one young man who thought he had a job that would be starting that very day. He got a call at the last minute and the company retracted their offer. I really know how that feels. A travel agency once hired me and after my first day, they called me early the next morning and said they were taking it back. It wasn’t my dream job, but it still felt like a punch to the stomach.

But the worst was yet to come.

Among all the people without jobs these days are many newspaper editors, reporters and photographers. My husband and I were way ahead of the trend: The Louisiana newspaper we worked at closed down their afternoon edition years ago.

I was lost for a long time. Emily, my daughter, had just graduated from kindergarten. Ethan was 3. My husband found a job in Nashville, a whole world away from the place I loved and felt comfortable.

Luckily, things have worked out. We both have good jobs at the moment, but we have watched a few rounds of layoffs come and go at our places of employment. There is always that feeling of an ax hanging over our heads, just a little out of our line of vision.

My heart aches for those who are suffering and are out there every day looking, looking for a job. May God be with you.

—Kathy Gilbert, Editor, UMNS

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-363-2163

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.

UMW

Many thanks to the ladies who provided the delish homemade soups on Soup Sundays: Brenda Klingel, Marge Miller, Pam Queen, Stephanie Schott, Lorraine Brenner, and Wilma Pikuritz. The money realized from this and other fundraising goes to support the missions of UMW, locally and around the world.

On April 20th, all ladies of the church, of all ages, are cordially invited to come to tea at the parsonage. In addition to sharing a lovely assortment of teas, finger sandwiches, scones, etc, we will share information about the United Methodist Women and enjoy a lively auction, conducted by our own Joan Curtis. The tea is free; if you want to participate in the auction (so much fun), cash or checks are accepted. For additional information, contact Barbara Becker, Joan Curtis or Ivette Sanchez.

—Barbara Becker

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.

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THIS MONTH'S birthdays

- April 2** Eireann McGrath
- April 4** Emma Christiansen
- April 7** Leonard Trionfo
Jillian Leahy
- April 9** James Rose
- April 13** Jay-Lynn Lynch
- April 15** Sara Okun
- April 17** TJ Ryan Jr.
- April 18** John Armstrong
- April 24** Andrei Gamcsik
- April 25** William Alfonso-Zea
Sarah Biederman
- April 27** Olivia Lipponer