



Since 1791

The Link



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue



December 2008

Edited By George Hoag

Advent Candles and Colors



The increasing light of the Advent candles

helped mark the time of waiting and anticipation, with the climactic lighting of a central Christ candle on Christmas Eve.

Traditionally, the Advent candles have been purple, associated with royalty. This symbolized the sovereignty of Jesus, the descendant of David, coming to usher in the Reign of God. Over time, this color became associated with the penitence of this season and of Lent. Another tradition dating from the Middle Ages called for royal blue candles and decorations. In recent years, as many churches have switched to blue, this color has come to represent hope for many. Yet another tradition calls for the use of a pink or rose-colored candle on the third Sunday, known as Rejoice Sunday. This mirrors an early practice in which the Bishop of Rome gave away roses on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which in turn got transferred into the Season of Advent. The lectionary readings for the third Sunday of Advent each year are more celebratory and joyful.

Over the years, people have attached

Continued on Page 3

Worship in December

Dec. 7—(2nd Sunday of Advent); Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8; “Good News”

Dec. 14—(3rd Sunday of Advent); Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28; “Messengers”

Dec. 21—(4th Sunday of Advent); “THE FIRST CHRISTMAS”, A Children’s Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24—(Christmas Eve); Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20, “Spirit of Christmas”

Dec. 28—(1st Sunday After Christmas); Psalm 8, Matthew 25:31-46; “When the Son of Man comes....”

“The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35, NIV



Circle of Concern

For Joys:

The birth of Josie Cuilan Hoag, daughter of Geoffrey and Janice Hoag and granddaughter of Gail and George Hoag

The birth of Jazlynn Helene Demaco, granddaughter of June Barile.

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.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Jeff Burdett, Betty Braile, Nana Grace, Frank Barile, Nancy Marshall, Michael Abate, Howard Alt, Deborah Belmonte, Baby Joseph.

These at Home:

Betty Hanley, Cliff McClean, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Mark Hoffman, Eric & Pat Carlson, Nancy Rogers, Elise Gavrock, Martha Campanile, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Cheryl Ward, Linda Werner's friend Lois, Lucille Barthelme, Jean Miller, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Ruth Masem, Billy Lattazino, Kitty Dayton and Shirley Scalice.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

George and Shirley Strauss; Joan Simpson in Sunrise Assisted Living, 300 Patchogue Holbrook Rd., Holbrook, NY 11741; 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; Setauket, Rm. 2.

Pray for our church and her future directions!



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

Lay Speaker Training

The Long Island East District Committee on Lay Speaking has announced its 2009 Annual School to train Local and Certified Lay Speakers.

The classes, will be held on Feb. 14 and 28, and Mar. 7, 14 and 21. The Lake Ronkonkoma and Westbury locations will have both Local Church Lay Speaker and Certified (Advanced) Lay Speaker classes. The Local Church Lay Speaker course will be offered in Spanish at the Hauppauge UMC.

Existing Certified Lay Speakers are reminded that they need to take at least one advanced course every three years to keep their certification, or complete not less than 15 hours of approved outside training every three years.

Applications for both Local and Certified candidates can be obtained from your local pastor, or by calling or emailing the District office. There are separate forms for Local Church candidates and Certified candidates. Also refer to the discipline Paragraph 266-268 which clearly defines Lay Speaking for those interested in taking the course. An application fee of \$30.00 per person attending is also required and should accompany the application. Checks and should be made out to the Long Island East District. Send both application and check to:

Long Island East District
357 MacArthur Blvd.
Hauppauge, NY 11788-3002
Attn: Barbara (631) 366-2396
lienyac@aol.com

Applications need to be in by Jan. 16 so that the proper amount of materials can be ordered.

Advent (from Page 1)

a variety of meanings and symbolisms to the Advent candles such as hope, peace, joy, and love; prophets, shepherds, angels, magi; and expectation, proclamation, joy, and purity. However, the symbolism of the candles lies in the circle of light that they create together. A weekly emphasis that grows from the scripture readings is far more powerful than trying to make the candles “fit” any particular scheme. (Seasons of the Spirit, p.40)

Christmas Greetings!

We are fast approaching the holiday season, with all of its warm thoughts and friendly smiles. All around the world, people are immersing themselves in the spirit of the season, and I wanted to send you and your family my best wishes.

Christmas is more than just a holiday; it is a holy day. It is a time when we are most reminded of God’s gift to the world, only Son, the Christ child, to raise us up out of our condition into Grace.

The greatest announcement the world has ever received is found in

Luke 2:10-12: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. [12] This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

During this most wonderful time of the year we as Christians are not only receivers of this announcement, but we are also to share the good news by announcing to a lost world that Jesus Christ has come to give them life more abundantly.

Below, you will find a list of the events of the Christmas Season here at Patchogue United Methodist Church and you are encouraged to attend, as well as inviting your friends and family to visit the church with you.

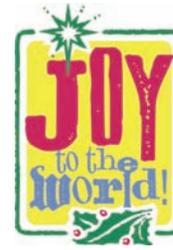
Sunday, Dec. 21; 10:00 a.m.—
“Christmas Pageant”

Wednesday, Dec. 24; 7:30 p.m.—
“Christmas Eve Service”

Christmas Blessings,

—*Rev. In Koo Chung*

A Prayer for Christmas Morning



The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise-men.

Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world...

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,

And the Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake.

Amen

—*Henry Van Dyke*



Parish Resource Center **Advent & Christmas Open House** **December 2nd through December 20th**

Parents, Grandparents, Sunday School Teachers, Church Leaders and Members, stop by during our regular operating hours to take a look at our **Christmas books, videos for children, ideas for fun holiday crafts, activities, games, and foods.** We also have seasonal studies and meditations for adults as well as family activities.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM to 5 PM
And Fridays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM

89 Hallock Landing Rd., Rocky Point, NY 11778

You can find more information about the Center on our website www.parishresourcecenter.org/least or by calling 631-821-2255.

Our Defining Moment Is at Hand

By Rev. Glenn Adone. Excerpted from his sermon to our congregation on Nov. 9.

And now, dare I say it, The United Methodist Church of Patchogue is up for a “name change.” from a church on the brink of “being history” into one on the brink of making history; from being “once-great” to being “GREAT-AGAIN!”

Your Pastor believes in a triune God who remakes, re-names, and re-shapes all who dare HOPE, all who PRAY without ceasing, all who put their faith to the task and their life on the line!

The question is “Are we worshipping for this? Are we praying for this? Are we willing to wrestle and not let go until the blessing comes? That, my sisters and brothers is “stewardship!”

Do we say God finds a way where we do not see a way? Are we willing to back that up with everything we have? If we are built on the rock which confesses Jesus as Christ, do we hold back, shrink back, or keep ANYTHING from Him??

Here is our defining moment. Pastor Chung is ready! Are we ready? Do we ask about money and speculate, or do we DEMAND the blessing even though we live in economic times that cripple us?

There were two distinct times I was put to the test in this.

Dianne and I were married a little more than one year. We were attending the UMC of Merrick. I found out I was a victim of a “Reduction in Force (RIF) at CBS and my employment was terminated.

During that financial squeeze, we were going to have to begin using funds we had put away to buy our first house. The church’s treasurer knew this and noticed that we did not stop our weekly pledged giving to the church.

We held that our promised giving to God was our top priority. We would not stop the tithing we were doing and in fact, we increased it.

The church treasurer kept a close watch as his own employment situation became subject to a RIF. And, he was in fact terminated eight weeks later. A week after his termination, I was hired by Grumman Data Systems on Long Island.

Since Dianne and I would now both be working on Long Island we were free to tap into the Real Estate market in central Suffolk and put money down on a house costing half as much as those we were saving for in Nassau County. Because of this, the money we originally had been putting aside and of late had been extracting during my unemployment was NOT NEEDED.

As God would have it, the loss of my Manhattan job paved the way for Dianne and me to buy and live within our means at that crucial time. The church treasurer who lost his job learned a valuable lesson on stewardship as this all unfolded in front of him. So he kept up his family’s pledged giving and less than a month later, his daughter received a scholarship to the College she had never thought she would ever be accepted to. The scholarship was twice as much as the one she had been ready to accept to be a student at her third choice, to which she was preparing to go....

The other defining moment I had

[occurred]...halfway through Seminary...I partnered with a classmate in a practicum on “Pastoral Counseling.” We had to learn how to counsel a family that had been stricken with a difficult emotional, health, or social challenge. We had to research something so we could be qualified, and we had to choose what it would be for ourselves.

My partner said to me. “I only know this one family. Mom has just learned she has MS.” “Maybe if we look into this I can really be of some help to them.” We found out everything one could about this “Multiple Sclerosis” from how it can be first diagnosed to how it can relapse or progress. We did very well. Our final grade after the role play was a B+.

Twelve and a half months later, when the doctor told me “Glenn, I’m afraid you have MS”, I was calm, I thanked God for delivering me from fear, and I went back to our instructor, told him what had happened and demanded a grade change to “A.” I told him, “You can’t get more pastoral than this!”...

So, Beloved brothers and sisters of the United Methodist Church of Patchogue, are we ready to make these claims in challenging times, to stand with our new Pastor Chung and demand the blessing by making and keeping our pledges for the missions work ahead and to join our new President in what he calls our “defining moment” by sharing the vision of hope our country now has?

The headline last Wednesday read “Change Has Come” and my question to all of you is “Will you Pledge to make it so?” ...Let it be so—with our Lord’s help. AMEN.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>2</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship	<i>8</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>9</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 7:30 p.m.— Soul-Food Café presents “Remembering Christmas”, music by Frank Rendo, in the Sanctuary
<i>14</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Finance Committee	<i>15</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>16</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship/ Christmas Pageant: “Mary & Joseph”, musical session: “Little Drummer Boy”	<i>22</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>23</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>24</i> 7:30 p.m.— Christmas Eve Service	<i>25</i> MERRY CHRISTMAS	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	<i>29</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>30</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>31</i>			

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"Guess who got voted to be a sheep in the Sunday school program for the fifth year in a row?!"

"SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS AND PLACED HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN."



LUKE 2:7, NIV

UMC.Org Reviews: *Changeling*

Director: Clint Eastwood;
Production Company: Universal
Pictures; Cast: Angelina Jolie, Jeffrey
Donovan, Colm Feore, John Malkovich,
Amy Ryan, Michael Kelly; Rating: R for
some violent and disturbing content,
and language.



Early in
Changeling,
Director Clint
Eastwood's
dark and
brooding crime
drama, a moth-
er explains to
her young son

why his father abandoned them. "For some people," she explains, "responsibility is the scariest thing in the world." This statement sums up the grand theme of the film—responsibility. *Changeling* is an old-fashioned, often severe morality tale about accepting or shirking responsibility—crime and punishment seen through a stern lens of actions, both good and bad, and the resulting consequences. And of course, there's the mystery of a mother who swears her missing son, now returned, is not her own.

Changeling centers on the true story of the infamous Wineville Chicken Coop murders which scandalized Los Angeles and made national headlines in the late 1920s. Angelina Jolie plays Christine Collins, a single mother who works as supervisor of a busy switchboard in downtown Los Angeles. When her son Walter disappears, Reverend Gustav Briegleb (John Malkovich), who uses his pulpit and popular radio broadcast to condemn police corruption and

ineptitude, unexpectedly takes up her cause. With each passing week that Walter remains missing, Briegleb causes more embarrassment for the Los Angeles Police Department.

Briegleb's criticisms are well founded. The L.A. Police department of the late 1920s was notoriously corrupt. In fact, as Briegleb points out in one of his barbed broadcasts, the cops only wiped out the mob in order to eliminate the competition. Crimes went unsolved, while the police shook down merchants, took bribes and essentially operated as gangsters in uniform. With Briegleb's taunts generating public outcry, pressure from the mayor makes it clear that the Collins boy must be returned to his mother. After five futile months, the police proudly announce that young Walter Collins has been found. But here the film takes a bizarre twist: the boy is clearly not Walter. The more Christine protests and insists her son is still missing, the more she is vilified by the authorities.

As Christine continues to insist that police need to find her son, she is accused of being an unfit mother, of being delusional, and most outrageously, of rejecting the returned Walter only to shirk her responsibility as a mother. Eventually the police, without court order or due process, institutionalize her against her will for being emotionally unstable. If this were fiction, it would be unbelievable, but since it's based on fact, you can only feel amazed at what it says about 1920s culture and what devious lengths the corrupt will stoop to to protect their reputation and riches. In a male-dominated society where women and children were marginalized, the emotional instability of women was accepted as fact and reason enough to

take the word of a male expert over a mother who swears a child is not her own.

Christine's love and determination to save her child are at the emotional core of the film, and Jolie powerfully portrays this fierce devotion. She is a testament to perseverance and courage. If this mother's love is the film's heart, then the idea of responsibility is its head. Responsibility or accountability is the central ethical question of the film. The police shirk their essential responsibility to protect and serve. They also refuse accountability when they present Christine with a child not her own. Rather than admit that they have found the wrong boy (who lies about being Walter), they accuse Christine of being hysterical and an unfit mother.

The theme of retribution or judgment is clearly tied to the idea of responsibility. Eastwood has explored this theme before, particularly in *Unforgiven*. In *Changeling*, several of the characters—including the Chicken Coup Killers—express a fear of "going to hell" for their sins. It's thought provoking that this modern crime drama explores the old-school idea that the consequences of our sins follow us from this world to the next. In fact, the child killer fears hell more than the hangman.

Changeling isn't for everyone; its story is grim and very dark. But for anyone who has enjoyed Clint Eastwood's late career renaissance as a director, *Changeling* holds its own alongside other somber classics like *Million Dollar Baby* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*. Most importantly, although the film explores the darkness of human nature, it still leaves you with a ray of hope.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



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

DECEMBER

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Rev. In Koo Chung, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
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www.gbgn-umc.org/patchogue

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

**The Choral Society
of the Moriches**
72nd Annual Presentation
Handel's Messiah
Directed by
Martha Campanile

Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
St. Jude's R.C. Church
89 Overlook Dr., Mastic Beach

Sunday, Dec. 14, 3:00 p.m.
Church of the Immaculate Conception
580 Main Rd. Westhampton Beach

Friday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Congregational Church of Patchogue
95 East Main St., Patchogue

Sunday, Dec. 21, 3:00 p.m.
Presbyterian Church of the Moriches
263 Main St., Center Moriches

This Month's Birthdays

12/03	Rosemary Wolf
12/05	Kiersten McLean
12/08	Krista Smith
12/08	Evan

Hawkins

12/09	Chelsea Loris
12/09	Heather Horan
12/09	Trevor Jacobsen
12/10	Carissa Discepolo
12/13	Hailey Puglia
12/13	Adriana Lynch
12/13	Paige DesRoches
12/14	Tyler Bomschein
12/14	Steven Rice
12/16	Michael Amodio
12/16	Kevin Weldon

12/17	Jessica Martin
12/18	Megan Horan
12/18	Matthew Layton
12/19	Anthony Nicholson
12/21	Michael Layton
12/23	Claire Kemp
12/23	Hayden Snyder
12/24	Jaden Keeley
12/25	Stephanie Bonfe

The deadline for the January edition of **The Link** is Dec. 13. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

We would like to include you on our e-mail list so that you can be timely updated on events. If you have not been receiving e-mail from us, please send your e-mail address to patchumc@optonline.net.