

Since 1791

The Link



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

December 2010

Edited By George Hoag

Good and Faithful Servant

"Well done,
good and faithful
servant!"

Matthew 25:21, NIV



Well, here at Patchogue, New York we are certainly feeling and seeing the beauty of the fall season all over our vil-

lage. So much beauty reminds us of the power and majesty of our wondrous and faithful God. Which brings me to a question; Are we good and faithful stewards of all His blessings?

The Bible says that someone who is faithful with a little thing will be faithful with much (Luke 16:9-11). So, if we are honest and do the right thing when no one is looking, we will be able to be trusted when people are looking. We hear a lot mentioned in the Bible about good stewardship. Basically the message is that God has entrusted us with things down here on earth and it is our responsibility to do something good with them.

It can be easy to forget that God created the world we live in and us as well. He created the air we breathe, the sun that warms the earth, and plants and animals for food. He is the one

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Worship In December

Dec. 5—Isaiah 11, 1-10, Matthew 3, 1-12; Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *From Anxiety, Possibility.*

Dec. 12—Isaiah 35, 1-10, Matthew 11, 2-11; Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *What We Have Seen and Heard.*

Dec. 19—Isaiah 7, 10-16, Matthew 1, 18-25; Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *The Courage of Joseph.*

Dec. 24—Isaiah 9, 2-7, Luke 2, 1-14, (15-20); Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols.

Dec. 26—Isaiah 63, 7-9, Psalm 148; Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Creature Praise.*

"This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."



Luke 2:12, NRSV

Circle of Concern

Stewardship

For Joys: Joyful Celebration of the Installation of Pastor Sanchez.

For Bereavement: For the Family and Friends of Gaetania Butera (Dean Butera's mother.)

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Christy Wood, Lois Wood, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Bob Pignataro, Holly Nelson, Elizabeth Biederman's cousin, Jody, that Jody has a healthy delivery and Dylan has no kidney complications at birth, Don De LaVergne (Linda Werner's nephew), Kevin O'Donnell for comfort and healing over the loss of a loved one, Lisa Prince, the family of Alex Pearson, he is in a nursing home, he is the father-in-law of Lenny Pearson, Joan, the Neuman family, Nancy Rogers for comfort and healing, Tom Bracken, Barry Burrell's sister, Wildredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice) and Monica, Patrick Keena, Joel Furman, Sheila Dreaper and Frank Whalen.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Marvin Rice, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, Corinne Burdett (Linda Stawecki's mother), John Vanderzalm, Sharon Kaminski, Layden John Clark and Wayne Stawecki.

These at Home:

Betty Hansley, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Pat Carlson, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Mike Welsh, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, Marvin Rice, John Casale, Mr. O'Keefe, Don Miller and Lorraine Greco.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY 11772

Kitty Brunnemer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934

Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772

Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg, Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 1320

Nancy Rogers in I.C.F. , S. #1, wing C, 283 Route 25A, Shoreham, NY 11786

Connie Halliwell, Bethany 202, Our Lady of Consolation, 111 Beach Drive, West Islip, NY 11795

Rachel Nason in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772.



Late October and November was a busy time in the service of our Lord. The

Chinese Auction, Pastor's Installation, Thanksgiving

Day Dinner and programs for the holidays kept the church humming.

On Oct. 24, our MYF retrieved two hundred plus roof slates from the lot next to the church. Eleven of our youth participated with the supervision of Wayne Gibson. I have to give special thanks to all our young women who had to wipe "icky" spider eggs and other debris from the tiles before they were transferred to the cellar.

Our MYF participants were Devin Keeley, Joe (new member), Mathew Layton, Kody Miller, Kelli Pearson, Laurie Purificato, Jellixa & Abdiel Sanchez, Krista Smith, Rachel Watson, and Justin Zimmerman. They saved the church thousands of dollars in future expenditures for new slate. Thank you all for a job well done. Also thanks to Lenny Pearson, who cleaned up the area afterward.

Carla Gibson and the MYF would like you to "Adopt a Grandparent." Names of grandparents are taken from our "Circle of Concern." You may also nominate someone. Those who sign up will prepare a parcel of gifts for each of our shut-ins and those in nursing homes. Sometime around Christmas the MYF will distribute the gifts. It is an endearing program enjoyed by all. Sign up sheets are posted in Wesley Hall. Please pick a grandparent and make this a special Christmas for both of you.

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

Late October found several good stewards working to prepare the church for winter. Jerry Alt gave the second coat of varnish to the sign and both sets of front doors. Bob Rogers sealed the north door staircase with the red sealer. Later, on another day, Lenny Pearson and Bob treated all the outside steps with a clear masonry sealer.

We would also like to thank Lenny for removing all the fallen branches and debris from the parsonage. Bill Loris donated a new motion-detecting outside light for the parsonage. Bob Prince and Lenny brought salvaged fence staves as replacements on the old stockade fence.

Narcotics Anonymous is now meeting in Wesley Hall on Friday evenings. The need is substantial in the Patchogue area. If you know of someone who may need their help, please encourage them to attend the meetings.

Patchogue Cooperative Nursery has closed their doors. They have been part of our church for many years, and their departure means a substantial loss of revenue for us. If you know of an organization that could rent two large classrooms on a full time or part time basis, please contact the office at 475-0381. Thank you.

The Chinese Auction was a great success. It was held on the evening of November 4th in a rainstorm. The outpouring of support by our congregation was outstanding. June Barile, chairperson, asked the congregation to go out and obtain saleable items or gift certificates for the event. We were worried that two hundred items would be generated. Two hundred and eighty items were collected. All that work paid off with \$2,200 being raised for the church. Six good stewards obtained

fifty-four gift certificates and other prizes. These people were Gail and George Hoag, Carol Kirschner, Betty Rice, Steve Shadbolt and Carolyn Willis Salvey. Steve obtained the grand prize, \$600 Islander Season Tickets. More than thirty members of the congregation worked and/or attended Thursday night. Thanks to all.

June Barile, her sister Valerie Ward and Janice LaBlanc are our experts in organizing and running Chinese Auctions. They have one once a year to fund their Cat Rescue & Placement, Inc. There are some seventy cats under their care at any time. Contributions of warm bedding, cat food and money is much appreciated. Janice prepares the LINK each month for mailing. We would like to thank them for taking the time from their busy schedules to work with us on our auction.

A lot of people made this auction a success. One small dedicated group included members of our MYF. Debbie and Devin Keeley, Tyler Lynch and Justin Zimmerman were our runners. Vicki's daughter, Jaclin Fomulari, joined our intrepid MYF in carrying the prizes to winners and verifying numbers. With two hundred and eighty items, they kept running while us oldsters had to take breaks. The star of the night was Steve Shadbolt. He was a great announcer and amazed many of us with his memory for numbers. Everyone had a great time and we want to thank all who participated in making this event a success.

Sharon and Dawn Henson collected \$75 for the Thanksgiving Dinner in their "The Shoppe" at 11 North Ocean Avenue. Please visit their shoppe on weekends, 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. or visit them on the computer at: [\[cal.blogspot.com\]\(http://cal.blogspot.com\). They feature hand crafted items from recycled items by twelve local artisans. There will be an artisan fair there on December 4. If you know of an organization or family that can help us in our quest to feed the hungry, please contact Barbara Becker at 475-1792.](http://shoppelo-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

With all that we have asked of you, we hesitate to ask for more, but the need today is so great. With warm thoughts of the coming holidays, could you add one more item to your Christmas list? As the cold winter fast approaches, we would like to begin an "Angel Tree." Each angel on the tree will have a practical gift of gloves, scarves or hats listed on it. If you could buy one of these items, it will be given to one of our guests at the December Wesley Dinner – two days before Christmas. Think of the joy each of our guests would feel knowing that someone cares for them at Christmas. This will speak of your devotion to Christ in this holiday season. Come to church in early December for more information.

Chris Saas, our Administrative Assistant, is collecting gently used coats and warm clothing for the Thanksgiving and December Wesley Dinners. Some have already been taken by people coming to our Food Pantry. If you have any donations of clothing or coats please bring them to church. The warmth they bring will make this winter a little more bearable. They will also provide God's enveloping love for those who wear them.

May God bless and keep you in this holiday season.

—**Dave Hollowell**

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

What's Cool In Sunday School

Susanne Olivetti-Dodge

In the Pre-K to 2nd grade Sunday School class, the students are learning about the importance of serving God by helping those around us.

The children are learning from the example of individuals in the Bible, such as Samuel, King Saul, David, and Ruth. From these Bible stories, the children see the power of God's love that works within each of us.

Debbie and Don Kolacki, Sunday School 3rd-5th Grade

Each week the 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class begins with a prayer and lighting of our (flameless) candle which reminds us that God is with us in our classroom.

During our first week together we came up with a name for our class and made a class banner. We decided to call ourselves "The Mighty Eagles." This is based on the scripture from Isaiah 40:31; "But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint."

We've been learning the stories of people from the Old Testament such as Samuel, Saul, and David. For one lesson we made inside/outside bags which helped us realize that God doesn't care about our outward appearance but "Looks on the heart."

When we studied the 23rd Psalm, we made prayer beads with different color beads to help us remember this wonderful Psalm.

We now have a TV in our classroom so we'll be able to watch DVD's about the Bible. We also have two computers

which will be set up in our room soon so we can take advantage of some of the exciting Sunday School software which is available.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with our parents to share the message of God's love for us all and look forward to seeing each of our students every week.

Kathie Loris, Middle School

Using the Faithweavers curriculum this semester, the middle school class has been learning about King David, his son Solomon, and the prophet Elijah. Our goal is to weave faith in Jesus Christ into all areas of our lives. We have discussed wisdom, knowledge, faith, and what it means to give 100% to Jesus. Our main focus is always on a growing personal relationship with our savior Jesus Christ.

Calling all parents! Our Christmas Pageant will be on Dec.17 after the Church Service. It will be performed in Wesley Hall on the stage. If anyone could help out in any way, from creating props and costumes, to helping with rehearsals, please call me or see me after church. My phone number is on the calendar in the Sunday School office.

Due to the concerns I have for our children's safety, the nursery room will be closed during the coffee hour. Our children are inadequately supervised and the classroom is left in shambles at the end of the day. If anyone would like to coordinate volunteers to supervise our children in the nursery as they play, please let me know. The nursery will be open during services, as always. Thank you for your understanding.

—**Elizabeth Biederman,**
Superintendent

Wesley Dinners

Through the generosity of the Patchogue Theatre, which donated four tickets to each of four performances in October and November, over \$200 was raised to help support our free monthly dinners.

The application we filed with Island Harvest was received and we will be monitored by that organization in January. Assuming (!) we pass inspection, we will then become a part of their network, which will enable us to receive food and other supplies, and possibly equipment.

There is a possibility that Bank of America will donate food supplies to our December dinner. They will let us know.

At the risk of repeating myself, I have to reference again the story of the Loaves and Fishes. Really, when we are focused on doing God's work on earth with cheerful hearts and generous spirits, when we have a positive, 'can do', attitude, God provides in so many ways.

We have spent more than the original funding we started with in February of this year, so, we should be broke, but, thankfully, we are not! Thanks be to God, to you the congregation, and to all the wonderful volunteers who, each month, plan, organize, cook, set-up, serve, clean up and make our guests feel welcome! Have a blessed and joy filled Christmas season.

—**Barbara Becker**

The deadline for the January issue of **TheLINK** is Dec. 10. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	3 Holiday Fair Setup	4 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—UMW Holiday Fair
5 10 a.m.—Communion Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Worship Committee <i>Counters: Linda Werner and Dave Hollowell</i>	6 7 p.m.—AA	7 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	8	9 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00 p.m.—NA	11 9:30 a.m.—UMW
12 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Finance <i>Counters: Lenny Pearson and Linda Stawecki</i>	13 7 p.m.—AA	14 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	15	16 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 p.m.—NA	18
19 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School <i>Counters: Debbie Kolacki and Kate Weber</i>	20 7 p.m.—AA	21 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	22	23 5:00–6:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS <i>Joy</i> 
26 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School <i>Counters: Brenda Klingel and Joanne Shadbolt</i>	27 7 p.m.—AA	28 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	29	30 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	31 7:00 p.m.—NA	

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CHRISTMAS PLAY
TRYOUTS

ENBESSER

"We found our donkey!"

THE PEOPLE
WALKING IN
DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A
**GREAT
LIGHT.**

Isaiah 9:2 NIV

Faithful Servants (from Page 1)

that gave us our brains to think; he placed different gifts and skills in each one of us, and gave us each unique personalities. It is only because of His great mercy that he doesn't just prove to me how dependent I am on Him, when I start to think I really accomplished something on my own. As we understand that, "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it," (*Psalms 24:1*) we can see that we are merely temporary possessors (or stewards) of things that He owns. We are born with nothing and we take nothing with us when we leave. It all just gets passed on to someone else.

The amazing thing is that we have the opportunity to "store up for ourselves treasures in heaven" by giving some of those items that we temporarily possess down here. "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." *Matthew 6:24*

I have found from my own life that my decisions about money reflect who I am serving. At the most stingy and greedy moments of my life it was painfully evident who my master was. I tried to convince myself that I was serving God, but in truth my decisions were made on their financial impact rather than on my faith in God.

It's one of those areas that we will all have room to grow in. I remember patting myself on the back after an act of generosity that I was proud of, only to be shown, moments later, of two other areas of my life that I was being greedy in. It's humbling, but it is also encouraging to know that we will never "arrive" and that God doesn't expect that of us. He knows our weaknesses

and our strengths. He knows what we are capable of and while I earnestly want to please Him, I am so thankful for his forgiveness when I mess up.

As stewards we have a responsibility to use what we have been given wisely. Just like in the parable of the talents, it is up to us how we use what we have been given. We can choose to bury it like the "lazy" steward or we can make more from what we have been given like the "good" stewards.

As far as managing our finances go, there is a tricky balance and setting of priorities that must take place. It is challenging to walk in the balance. That balance is what we should be seeking in the practical areas of being stewards of our finances. The great thing is that as we prove ourselves faithful in small things we will be given more and bigger things to be stewards over.

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

—**Rev. Ernesto Sanchez**

Bishops Support Church Reforms, Accountability

United Methodist bishops have unanimously endorsed recommendations for widespread church reforms, including greater accountability for denominational leaders in promoting church growth.

The Council of Bishops' approval of the Call to Action Steering Team Report on Nov. 4 was heralded as a step forward for a church that has suffered decades of membership decline in the United States.

"What this means is that whatever goes forward, the council is commit-

ting itself – and hopefully the Connectional Table will make the same commitment – that yes, we are taking a stand and these are the levers to pull the church in the direction in which we feel the Spirit of God is calling us," said Illinois Area Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, the steering team co-chair. "And that is toward more congregational vitality."

The major recommendations for reform include:

- Starting in January 2011, make congregational vitality the church's "true first priority" for at least a decade.

- Dramatically reform clergy leadership development, deployment, evaluation and accountability. This would include dismissing ineffective clergy and sanctioning under-performing bishops.

- Collect statistical information in consistent and uniform ways for the denomination to measure attendance, growth and engagement.

- Reform the Council of Bishops, with the active bishops assuming responsibility for promoting congregational vitality and for establishing a new culture of accountability throughout the church.

- Consolidate general church agencies and align their work and resources with the priorities of the church and the decade-long commitment to build vital congregations. Also, the agencies should be reconstituted with smaller, competency-based boards.

Some of the recommendations will require the approval of General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body.

—**Heather Hahn, UMC News Service**

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

 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.

Address Service Requested



December

Holiday Fair

The United Methodist Womens' annual Fair will be held on Sat, Dec. 4, from 9-3:00. Gift baskets, all manner of potential holiday gifts, baked goods, home made chile, the list goes on and on! Come and enjoy good fellowship while doing some holiday shopping. All monies earned by UMW go to support missions and ministries for women, children and youth. (The UMW is a supporter of the Wesley Dinners.)

ESL

Our ESL classes are continuing on Tuesday evenings this term, with Jean Romeo as teacher. Approximately, 12-20 students attend each week. Pastor Sanchez has visited the class and looks forward to getting to know the needs of the students, so we can better serve them.



It has been a very busy season for the MYF. Last month the MYF youth group cooked sweet potato casserole and dinner rolls for the churches Thanksgiving dinner. They also helped clean up and store the slate roof tiles in the back of the church.

This month the MYF youth group is working on our annual "Adopt a Grandparent" project. To participate in this event, and sponsor a member of the church who is in nursing care, please sign up in Wesley Hall. We will be accepting gift baskets for the "Grandparents" until Christmas. With your love and generosity, we look forward to this being a successful event!

—Carla Fiore-Gibson



12/5 Kiersten McLean
12/5 John Elliott
Derek Elliott
12/6 Gretchen Wertz
12/07 Sean

Trizary

12/8 Krista Smith
Evan Hawkins
12/9 Trevor Jacobsen
12/10 Katelyn Schaaf
12/13 Hailey Puglia
12/13 Adrianna Lynch
12/13 Paige DesRoches
12/14 Tyler Bomschein
12/14 Steven Rice
12/16 Kevin Weldon
12/17 Jessica Martin
12/18 Megan Horan
Matthew Layton
12/21 Michael Layton
12/23 Hayden Snyder
12/24 Jaden Keeley
12/30 Derek Fontaine