

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

February 2016

Lent Begins

"There is a time for everything" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-22)

I'm hoping there aren't too many accidents and disasters due to storms in the East Coast! We are thankful for those who helped in these emergencies.

What a privilege and gracious feeling that we have a cozy place, where we can hide and tuck in with warm pleasure.

The book of Ecclesiastes, especially Chapter Three, gives us a profound meaning as we think of the upcoming Lent season.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, we will have a service in the evening where we can experience that we all come from dust and will return to dust.

Verse 22 says, "So I saw that there is nothing

better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot".

It reminds me of teaching children that it's their work God had provided while they were growing up; to study hard so that they can be used for His purpose as they mature.

It gives us three fold efficiency and effectiveness when we enjoy our work and I believe that if everyone can contribute what they do, the best they can, which is a God given

talent, it will eventually be a better place for everyone, when we think of not only our own selfish motives or another ulterior motive.

I invite all of you to Ash Wednesday service, in order for us to be renewed and restored by the Spirit of God. And we can go from there to have this Lent season experiencing another significant growth in our journey with the Lord.

Prayers and blessings to you!

—Your Pastor

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 7—Barbara Becker, *Christianity Is Not a Spectator Sport*, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:2-36

Feb. 10—**Ash Wednesday**—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 31:1-17., 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6. 16-24

Feb. 14—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 94:1-2, 9-16, Romans 19:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

Feb, 21—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:13-36

Feb. 28—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9



Charge Conference

Long Island East District Superintendent Adrienne Brewington will officiate at our annual Charge Conference, after worship on Feb. 14. Elections will be held for church offices.

Circle of Concern

Joy: Charlene Schulz on the birth of her grand-daughter, Abagael Janene Weber

For Guidance and Healing:

Steve Rea, Liza Burell, Marisol Marita, Erlinda Hill

These Who are Hospitalized:

Walt Stawecki, Eddie Leddin

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Gerri Sheridan in Sunrise Senior Center, 320 Patchogue-Holbrook Rd., Holbrook, NY.

John Vander Zalm in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Leona Kremer in Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, 101 Hospital Rd., E. Patchogue, NY.

Alice Zahnd in Affinity Skilled Living, 305 Locust Ave., Oakdale, NY.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Waverly Avenue, Holbrook, NY.

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 or the Prayer Request Form on our webpage at www.patchogueumc.org.

Hear Our Sermons and Watch Our Services Online.
Click on the Links at www.PatchogueUMC.org

Shepherd's Singers

Concert

The Shepherd's Singers, a Gospel Music group from Nassau County, led by the husband of our District Superintendent, Adrienne Brewington, will perform in our sanctuary on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4:00 p.m. The concert is co-sponsored by Grace AME Zion Church of Patchogue. A reception will follow and a free will offering will be accepted.



The Shepherd's Singers began in the early 1990s as a small, a capella men's choir at The Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist in Lakeview, New York. At that time, the group included Franklin Anderson, Fred Brewington and Jerry Bryant.

The group acquired its first female voice when Adrienne Brewington, who was at that time its director, replaced a departed tenor. The group's popularity in the music ministry at Good Shepherd quickly drew its next female voices—sopranos Betty Agnew and Ilene Burke. From that point the group prospered.

The Singers have continued to grow and evolve over the years, adding piano, African drums, bass and rhythm guitar and, more recently standard drums and saxophone to their unique sound.

The group's range of music has been stretched and enhanced with the additions of the voices of Char-

lene and Tom Berry, Precilla Lockett, Rose Walker, Angela Barrett, Rev. David Henry, Charles Powell, Willie Richardson and Jerry Zackman, as well as the musical talents of Tom, Robert Franklin, Rodney Harrison, Rev. Bob Lepley, Phil Glover, George McKenzie, Jon Lewis and Anibal Plaza.

The technical expertise of Leslie Rhodes, Douglass McQuillan and Dwayne Lindsey have enhanced the quality of the diverse musical offerings.

The Singers have ministered at many churches and ecumenical gatherings throughout the New York Metropolitan area and UMC New York Annual Conference. They are, individually and collectively, thankful to God for the gift of music. Now, a multi-denominational Christian Ministry from several churches, The Singers sing for no other reason than the Glory of God.

Lent
B E G I N S

February Birthdays

Feb. 2 Koby Miller

Feb. 4 Juliana Wright

Feb. 24 Lily Rogers

The deadline for the March issue of **The Link** is **February 19**. Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 p.m.—AA	2 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	3	4 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	6
7 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	8 7:00 p.m.—AA	9 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	10 7:00 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Service	11 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	13
14 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Charge Conference 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	15 7:00 p.m.—AA	16 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	17	18 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	20
21 10 a.m.—Worship/ Heat Offering/ Sunday School 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 4:00 p.m.—Gospel Concert	22 7:00 p.m.—AA	23 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	24	25 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	26 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food deliv- ery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	27
28 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	29 7:00 p.m.—AA					

Second In Our History Series Our Buildings Evolve

We started out with Ezra Tuttle as our first pastor in 1791 and congregants met in his house for meetings.

Meeting Place Number Two



Our second meeting place in 1794 was on the corner of Main and Waverly Ave. We shared this clapboard building with the Baptists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians. Each denomination used it one fourth of the time, which amounted to every other Sunday.

The rough building, with no fire inside, formed a poor protection from the rigors of winter, but with fire in the heart, discomfort endured. During the winter, services disbanded until March.

Meeting Place Number Three



In 1830 our third meeting house, and first real Methodist Church building, was being built. During the work of church building they met in school houses, outside in an Oak Grove, and in the finishing room of Jonas Wicks'

paper mill which could seat 200 people. Jonas Wicks had donated the plot for this church to be built on the southeast corner of Main St. and River Ave.

Meeting Place Number Four



The fourth meeting house was necessary as the society continued to grow, and so another new building was erected on the southeast corner of Railroad Ave. and Church St. This building was dedicated in 1854. It was the happy privilege of Ezra Tuttle, our first pastor, to attend the dedication services. Soon after, he died at almost 90 years old.

From 1869 the pews were rented for a few years. Later a resolution was passed that the seats be free at all times except morning and evening, and free at these times after opening prayer.

During these years, there were revival tent meetings, and new innovations. Henry Ketcham, one of our early members, mentioned these as modernizing the pulpit by lowering it, cushioning the pews, seating people without separating the sexes, and introducing instrumental music to aid and improve the singing.

Ezra Tuttle occupied a chair within the altar railing. When he first heard the improved music in the church, its "notes fell with terrorizing discord upon the ear of the ancient divine,

who soon made a reproachful survey of the congregation, and discovering the cause of the irritating discord, delivered a subterranean groan that expressed his holy horror, and then seized his hat with his right hand, his cane with his left, and marched his primitive dignity out of the church."

Later, a compromise was effected and tranquility restored. The instrumental music was deferentially suppressed during the time of Rev. Tuttle's subsequent attendance.

—Wendy Hollowell

to be continued next month

Our Year Long Celebration

Our 225th year began with a very supportive and encouraging article in the January 14th edition of the Long Island Advance, written by the paper's editor, Linda Leuzzi.

In the article, Ms. Leuzzi, while extolling the beauty of our present church building and recognizing the long history of our congregation in the Patchogue community, was most enthusiastic about our outreach missions and ministries. She feels that caring for those around us is the real measure of a church community. I couldn't agree more. And there is so much more we can and will do.

Also in January, our church historian, Wendy Hollowell, began a series of monthly mini lessons focused on our history. She will be doing this each month this year during worship on the 2nd Sunday. You can also visit the History Room on those Sundays and see some wonderfully interesting artifacts of our church's past.

Looking ahead: On Feb. 21, at 4:00 p.m., our church, in cooperation with Grace AME Zion Church of Patchogue, will present a rousing gospel concert with the Shepherd's Singers. There will be a reception afterward, prepared by both our UMW and ladies from Grace. A free will offering will be accepted.

In March, I will be providing a workshop on discovering and using your spiritual gifts. Date and time TBD. Please let me know if you are interested.

In April or May, we will sponsor an international dinner, reflecting the many cultural heritages of our church community and the community around us. Food, music, and more. Stay tuned for date, time, and more information.

In October, we will celebrate with a dinner at a local restaurant and publish a journal. Both will be fund raising efforts and will require a lot of teamwork. As soon as the date and time is determined, the information will be shared with everyone.

—Barbara Becker

General Conference Debates Are Previewed

In a gathering that repeatedly stressed church unity despite passionately held differences, United Methodists received a preview of some issues the 2016 General Conference will debate when the denomination's top lawmaking body meets this spring.

The Rev. Steven Lewis, Gresham United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, urged delegates to remember

who they are as they debate issues and resolutions at General Conference 2016

"Few will read what we write, but millions will watch what we do," Lewis said during his sermon at opening worship during the pre-General Conference briefing.

More than 400 delegates, communicators and other United Methodists who will be part of the 2016 General Conference attended the Jan. 20-22 event at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. Most will return for the denomination's legislative assembly May 10-20.

United Methodist Communications sponsored the event, with involvement and support from other agencies and ministries of the church. Many United Methodists expect the most passionate and difficult debate at the 2016 General Conference to deal with how the denomination ministers with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. At the briefing, participants got a preview of the emotional stakes in the debate as well as a chance to try out an alternative process for discussing legislation on tough issues.

This is a brief look at some of the issues explored:

Big changes proposed for bishops, clergy

Bishops would no longer be elected for life, ordination of United Methodist elders and deacons would be faster and the first step would be taken to allow doing away with guaranteed appointment under legislation being proposed to the 2016 General Conference.

However, since term limits and guaranteed appointment would require changes to the denomination's constitution, those reforms would come slowly, even if approved.

Under the term-limit proposal, a bishop would be elected for eight years and could run again for another eight-year term. The terms would be the same worldwide.

The legislation on guaranteed appointment, or security of appointment, would remove the constitutional barrier identified by the Judicial Council after the 2012 General Conference approved legislation that would have allowed bishops to give elders less than full-time appointment and added steps for discontinuing elders and associate members from receiving an appointment.

A proposal to reform the episcopal complaint process provides that if the jurisdictional College of Bishops cannot process the complaint to completion within 180 days, the complaint moves to the full Council of Bishops.

Church budget

As the U.S. economy has recovered from the 2008 crash, the denomination as a whole has seen its financial health improve.

Moses Kumar, the top executive of the General Council on Finance and Administration, reported that a record 26 conferences paid 100 percent to the general church apportionments in 2015—the highest number in at least 16 years.

Continued on Page 7

General Conference Preview (From Page 4)

At the general church level, the money supports bishops, United Methodist ministerial education, most general agencies and denomination-wide efforts such as the Black College Fund, ecumenical work and Africa University in Zimbabwe. The General Council on Finance and Administration's board and the Connectional Table are proposing a budget of \$611.4 million for general church funds in 2017-2020. That's about a 1.4 percent increase above the \$603.1 million general church budget approved at the 2012 General Conference. With projected inflation, that budget actually represents a 7.2 percent spending decrease in real dollars, Kumar said.

A U.S. central conference?

One of the frequent complaints about General Conference is that delegates spend much of the 10-day global meeting on issues that strictly focus on the U.S.

Participants at this month's preview heard about two plans to address this concern by creating a central conference or similar body to encompass the entire United States. Currently, the denomination has seven central conferences in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Each has the authority under the denomination's constitution to make "such changes and adaptations" to the Book of Discipline as missional needs and differing legal contexts require.

Members of the Central Texas and North Texas conferences are bringing legislation to create a U.S. Central

Conference that would meet in conjunction with General Conference. "We believe this proposal keeps it simple," said Tim Crouch, a General Conference delegate from North Texas.

A task force appointed by the Northeastern Jurisdiction is bringing "A Global Connection Plan," that is more complicated but also, according to its proponents, more comprehensive.

The plan would rename General Conference as the Global Connectional Conference, restrict its work to church matters that are global in nature and add continent-wide bodies called connections, including a North American connection. The plan also would replace U.S. jurisdictions and central conferences with bodies called regions.

"We believe it is important to have equivalent structures across the church," said Tracy Merrick, a member of Northeastern Jurisdiction task force.

Under both the Texas and Northeastern Jurisdiction plans, the denomination's global legislative meeting would be shorter but would remain the only body that can speak for the whole denomination. Both plans also would require amendments to the denomination's constitution.

Restructuring proposals

Frederick Brewington, a member of the Connectional Table, pointed out that a number of formal and informal proposals regarding the denomination's structure and connection will come before the General Conference. "The Connectional Table

neither adopts nor endorses any of the proposals that currently exist," he said, but he outlined some basic principles to follow in these discussions. One of those proposals is "Plan UMC Revised." The Rev. Clayton Oliphint explained that this plan removes provisions ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council after the 2012 General Conference adopted "Plan UMC," a compromise proposal. Many involved in the restructuring work were frustrated by the top court's last-minute ruling, he said.

Under Plan UMC Revised, the current Commission on Religion and Race and Commission on the Status and Role of Women would be merged into a committee on inclusiveness. The plans also folds the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History into the denomination's finance agency. Erin Hawkins, top executive for Religion and Race, expressed concern that the vital programs of her agency would be lost. The church needs "greater clarity and alignment around its identity and mission," she added.

Social issues

The 2016 General Conference will consider amendments to more than 70 social justice petitions ranging from climate change to human trafficking.

Representatives from the Division on Ministries with Young People, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Board of Church and Society, Commission on General Conference and Standing Commission on Central Conference Matters and the Board of

Continued on Page 8

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Don't Forget Your Pledge

A Note About Restoring Hope

Our Restoring Hope capital campaign was completed several years ago but funds may continue to be contributed. All Restoring Hope contributions go to the Trustees who have continuing building expenses but no other revenue source.



"This isn't exactly what I had in mind!"

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

Rev. Hyo Jung (Dawn) Yoon, Pastoral Minister

Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant

Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-475-3132

Email: office@PatchogueUmc.org

Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org

Sunday Worship—10 AM | Sunday School—10 AM

Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM

Hearing assistance provided



General Conference Preview (From Page 7)

Pension and Health Benefits highlighted some of those resolutions.

Christine Flick, a delegate from Germany South Conference, talked about a petition calling for a reduction of carbon footprint with regard to travel related to the denomination's church meetings.

"The whole earth is God's good creation," she said. "We are aware of how the constant use of energy threatens the environment."

The United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits recognizes its responsibility to protect and promote human rights and the environment, said Kirsty Jenkinson, calling climate change "the most severe eco-

nomie threat to the world." She is managing director, Sustainable Investment Strategies, Wespeth Investment Management Division of the pension board.

In 2015, the board and Wespeth implemented a human rights investment guideline that identified 11 high-risk countries and 39 companies with significant investments in those places, Jenkinson said.

Digital Hymnal

A proposal for a digitized, customizable United Methodist Hymnal would include a core section of required music and Wesleyan liturgical resources and a cloud-based library allowing congregations to create what they need for their own ministry setting. If passed, work would begin

Jan. 1, 2017, on a finalized proposal to be approved by the 2020 General Conference.

Praying for General Conference

The Rev. Tom Albin, dean of The Upper Room Chapel, will again help lead a prayer community to support delegates and the entire denomination during General Conference.

"Prayer is like oxygen for your soul," Albin told attendees.

The General Conference Prayer Ministry designed a "60 Days of Prayer" daily prayer book that runs March 31–May 29 so church members can connect through the same Scripture, meditation and prayer for each day.

—United Methodist News Service