

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

January 2009

Edited By George Hoag

A Challenge For Us

We have been making the case that the church is in serious financial condition, and many church members have responded with extra commitments. Pledge amounts for 2009 are running nearly 50% above 2008. Some of this may be offset in reduced plate collections but we are grateful to all of those who have made a commitment. We also received in December one time anonymous gifts of \$5,000 and \$1,000.

In addition one congregation member has a challenge for us. Every extra gift to the church between now and Mar. 31 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. This is an opportunity for us to raise an extra \$20,000 in the first quarter.

The money is badly needed. We now have estimates for the overdue roof repair at the parsonage—about \$8,000. In addition, we have a serious problem with our 5,000 gallon underground fuel oil tank which will require the tank's removal, an expensive proposition. Costs could run much higher if any leaked fuel is discovered. We are also exploring conversion to a more efficient heating system. This year's fuel oil bill totaled \$27,344.

Please prayerfully consider an extra gift to help us meet our goal.

Worship in January

Jan. 4 (Epiphany of the Lord)—Isaiah 40:1-11, Philippians 4:4-7; “Joy to the Lord”

Jan. 11 (Baptism of the Lord)—Genesis 1:1-5, Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 18 (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany)—1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51
“Follow Me”

Jan. 25 (3rd Sunday after the Epiphany)—Psalm 65:5-12, Mark 1:14-20
“Kingdom of God”



**Restore us,
O God Almighty;
make your face shine
upon us, that we
may be saved.**

Psalm 80:7, NIV

Circle of Concern

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, Joan Simpson, 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, Lucille Barthelme, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Ruth Masem, Billy Lattazino, Shirley Scalice.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

George and Shirley Strauss; 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.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

United Methodist Book Club

The book club is open to all and everyone is welcome to join. It usually meets once a month and this month we will meet on Sunday, Jan. 18, at Selma Graham's house. The selection chosen is, *The Lady and the Unicorn*, by Tracy Chevalier. The book is fiction, yet based on sensible suppositions concerning the Lady and the Unicorn tapestries woven in late medieval/Renaissance France.



Contributions Made Easy

Save time, simplify your life, and support our church! We're keeping up with the times by offering our congregation a new way to help our ministry. Our new Electronic Giving program is an automated program that will allow you to make contributions without having to lift a pen to write a check or reach into your wallet for cash!

Here is how it works:

You authorize a specified amount of money to be electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the church account. You also specify the frequency of the transfer. Contributions can also be automatically charged monthly to a Visa, MasterCard or Discover card.

It is fast, safe and easy! In fact, it is less risky than checks, as it cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed. The electronic transfer will cost you NOTHING and you save the cost of the check. The church will issue you a donation statement for your tax records, and your bank or credit card statements will provide you with a record of transfer as additional proof of your contributions. Donations via electronic transfer can be made to our general fund or for a special gift.

Of course you can cancel your authorization of transfer at any time by notifying us in writing. But we believe that once you have enjoyed the convenience and savings of this new program, you won't want to go back to the "old-fashioned" way of contributing to your church!

If you have already made your pledge, you can choose to switch to electronic payments by calling the office.

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

Happy New Year!

Let's give our special thanks to God for giving us a brand new year.

Let's fill our lives with new happiness and new joy in God's love and blessing.

In the year 2009, I pray that our church can be renewed in God's way.

In the Text (Colossians 3:12-17), the Apostle Paul tells us that because we are the chosen people of God, we have to dress in a certain way. Of course, he is not talking about the outward clothing, but he is speaking about the clothing of our hearts and our spirits.

We are chosen ones, holy and beloved daughters and sons of our God. It is because of Jesus Christ our Lord, we now have new life in Christ, and we become new people in Christ.

Now, as we are new people and have new life, we also have to put on new clothes. We have to take off our old clothes and we have to wear new clothes.

What are those new clothes?

New clothes are Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness, and Patience.

The Apostle Paul tells us in verse 14 that "love binds them all together in perfect unity." The thread that ties compassion and kindness and humility and gentleness and patience together is love.

- Compassion is to love others when they do not deserve it.
- Kindness is to love in action.
- Humility is to love others before yourself.
- Gentleness is treating others with love.
- Patience is enduring and long-suf-

fering love.

In this New Year 2009, I want all of you to put on these spiritual new dresses. First review what kinds of dress we have now, and if we are missing any of these spiritual dresses, I want you to prepare them for the New Year. It is because we are all going to put on these spiritual new dresses in 2009. In the family, in your work place, in the church, and everywhere and every time, we all are going to wear these clothes which are compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and above all "love."

May God Bless all of you.

In Christ,

Pastor Chung

Stewardship

Your prayers, presence and tithing show a growth in our Church in the last few months. Now two good shepherds have come forth in our time of need. One dedicated parishioner donated \$5000 toward our heat fund. The second good shepherd came forth bearing a substantial matching grant. With our present oil tank and financial problems, these gifts are God sent. At this dark hour the light of Christ has come and shown around us giving us hope for the future.

As of December 14, 2008, we have fifty-seven families pledging an amount of more than \$74,000. Thirteen more families have pledged this year. The need goes on, for we need \$83,000 in pledges to sustain ourselves in 2009. Please, if you can pledge, do so. Don't forget, you can do so electronically if that is more convenient. You can choose to have a contribution, each month, withdrawn from your bank account or charged to a Visa, MasterCard or Discover card. Call the

church office for information. Every pledge counts and will get our congregation closer to being able to do Christ's work in the world.

A special thanks to all the callers who contacted every member of the congregation by phone in the last few months. These good shepherds have definitely caused an increase in attendance. Our loyal callers include Betty Braile, Carol Berntsson, Jan Boyd, Ted Davies, Jean & Al Eid, Dave Hollowell, Madge & Ernest Ipke, Carol Kirschner, Deborah Kolacki, Ed Klingel, June Miller, Trudy Mansfield, Bob Prince, Dave Purificato, Bob Rogers, Betty and Steve Rice, Bob Smith and Gregory Davidowitch, Geri Sheridan, Helen Smith, Linda Stawecki, and Frank Whalen. Since the beginning of November, we have had one hundred or more people in Church each Sunday. The light of Christ is shining within us again.

We will continue to contact the congregation with important information. If you have not been contacted and would like a pastoral call or to be called with important Church news, please contact the office (475-0381) and provide us with your phone number and/or e-mail address.

—Dave Hollowell & Jan Boyd





For Everything A Season

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;
 A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
 A time to kill, and a time to heal;
 A time to break down, and a time to build up;
 A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
 A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
 A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 A time to seek, and a time to lose;
 A time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 A time to tear, and a time to sew;
 A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
 A time to love, and a time to hate;
 A time for war,
 And a time for peace.

--Ecclesiastes 3

—Courtesy Beliefnet.com

The Future Is Full of Promise

The future is full of promise,
 Holy Mystery,
 if only because we discern your forces of evolution at work everywhere.

Every opening daffodil, every growing child,
 every glimmer of human enlightenment, every bodily process of healing--tells us the future is not fearsome but is full of promise.

Your face is hidden, your name unknown:
 still we turn to you in faith and confidence.

Creating Spirit, we hear your comforting voice
 in the steady music of the unfolding of creation.

We give thanks to exist,
 and to be the joy of your heart.
 Amen.

--William Cleary Source: From
 "Prayers to an Evolutionary God" c
 2004 William Cleary. Reprinted with
 permission of the author.

Prayer for Strength and Wisdom

Grant me the strength from day to day
 To bear what burdens come my way.
 Grant me throughout this bright New Year
 More to endure and less to fear.
 Help me live that I may be
 From spite and petty malice free.

Let me not bitterly complain
 When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
 Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
 Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
 Lord, as the days shall come and go
 In courage let me stronger grow.

...
 Lord, as the New Year dawns today
 Help me to put my faults away.
 Let me be big in little things;
 Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
 Keep me from selfishness and spite;
 Let me be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year! Grant that I
 May bring no tear to any eye.
 When this New Year in time shall end
 Let it be said I've played the friend,
 Have lived and loved and labored here,
 And made of it a happy year.

--Edgar A. Guest

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<p><i>4</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship Take down the Greens.</p>	<p><i>5</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>6</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>7</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>8</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>9</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>10</i></p>
<p><i>11</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship</p>	<p><i>12</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>14</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>15</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i> 9:30 a.m.—UMW 8 a.m.—3:00 p.m.— Defensive Driving Course</p>
<p><i>18</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship/ 11:30 a.m.—Finance</p>	<p><i>19</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>21</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>22</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>23</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>24</i></p>
<p><i>25</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. —Hispanic AA</p>	<p><i>26</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>28</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>29</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>30</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>31</i></p>

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*“Behold,
I will create new heavens
and a new earth.
The former things
will not be remembered,
nor will they
come to mind.”*

Isaiah 65:17, NIV



Campbell.

“If we’re doing such a good job of keeping the devil away,
where do these infernal machines come from?”

UMC.Org Reviews: *Bolt*

Director: Chris Williams, Byron Howard; Production Company: Disney Pixar; Cast: John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton; Rating: PG for some mild action and peril.

By Gregg Tubbs

UMC.org—With its new animated



feature, Bolt, Disney/Pixar has once again served up a sumptuous two-course movie meal. If Wall-E was the soulful, satisfying main course,

Bolt is a sweet and frothy dessert. That's not to say Bolt is slight or simplistic. Wrapped up in tons of humor, heart and pure fun are questions of almost existential nature. What is reality and what is fantasy? What if everything you believe has been a sham? Does belief alone make it true? Heavy thoughts for anyone, but especially for a dog who, since he was a puppy, has believed that he was a superhero named Bolt.

Disney's Bolt sports an impressive pedigree. John Travolta provides the jaunty voice of super-dog Bolt, and Miley Cyrus voices his faithful human Penny. The film marks an important animation milestone as the first animated Disney feature to be conceived and produced under the supervision of John Lasseter, who is now chief creative officer for Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios. Lasseter, the Academy Award winning director of

Toy Story and A Bug's Life, has brought to Bolt a potent team whose credits include Cars, Mulan and last year's Meet the Robinsons, which like Bolt, was created for theatres equipped with 3D.

Bolt's days are filled with danger and excitement, and he wouldn't want it any other way. As a genetically enhanced super-dog, Bolt's mission in life is to protect his human Penny from the evil Dr. Calico, who has already captured Penny's brilliant scientist dad. Bolt's life is one adrenalin rush after another. Each perilous predicament is neatly wrapped up by day's end with the help of his amazing powers—super speed and strength, heat vision and a devastating super bark.

Little does Bolt know that when he and Penny retire to their house trailer after their latest adventure, a small army is scurrying about outside, preparing for Bolt's next adventure. Bolt is actually a TV star, but doesn't know it. Much like the Jim Carrey film The Truman Show, Bolt's entire life—from the time he was picked out by Penny (an actress) as a puppy—has been an elaborately staged reality show, with everyone in on the ruse but the star. The key to the success of "Bolt" the show is the incredible performance of Bolt the star, and the key to the performance is Bolt's belief that it's all real. Yet, the only thing that is real is the bond between Penny and Bolt.

Bolt's greatest challenge comes when he accidentally finds himself outside the TV studio and in the real world—a world where his super powers are gone, Penny is missing and his only help comes from Mittens, a cynical, scraggly alley cat, and Rhino, a hamster and manically devoted "Bolt" fan. The interaction between the three characters is

delightful and often touching, as Mittens, the voice of reason, tries to convince Bolt that he is just a regular dog, while Rhino insists that Bolt, his idol, really is the super hero he's always believed and is being neutralized by some form of canine Kryptonite. By defending Bolt's "awesomeness," Rhino also defends his own belief in Bolt.

The theme of belief plays a central role in Bolt. In particular, the film explores how the main characters respond when their deeply-held beliefs are challenged. Bolt finds himself rocked by a double-whammy: the realization that he is not a superhero and the resulting feeling that he is incapable of saving Penny whom he believes is in danger. Walt Disney believed that for every laugh there should be a tear. In other words, a memorable film has to have heart, and Bolt has plenty. Lasseter says, "The heart in 'Bolt' comes from the emotional journey and the change that happens along the way." Bolt learns to overcome the emotional shock and crisis of faith, while learning to believe in the abilities he does have. He also learns that you don't need to be "super" to be a hero and discovers that the victories won through grit, courage and sweat are always the sweetest.

Much of Bolt's heart also centers on the idea of devotion. Bolt's fearless, protective devotion to Penny is both bracing and heartwarming, and it's doubly touching to see Penny's equal devotion to Bolt. She pines to have him back, not as co-star, but as her beloved dog. By Walt Disney's definition, Bolt is a memorable film with laughs and heart to spare, and a sweet, inspiring message about devotion and the belief that everyone possesses untapped greatness.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
Patchogue**
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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 Correcction Requested



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01/03 Colby Schwartz | 01/21 Kyle Smith |
| 01/03 Madison DesRoches | 01/23 Michael Falcon |
| 01/04 Gabriella Heiss | 01/24 Kenneth Divico |
| 01/05 Shannyn Torbert | 01/24 Analiese Wood |
| | 01/26 Keith Champlin |
| | 01/29 Courtney Weiss |
| | 01/30 Vincent Aurigemma |

- 01/09 Alexandra Schechner
- 01/09 Sean Randall
- 01/11 Juliette Pampalone
- 01/12 Samantha Towle
- 01/13 Matthew MacDonald
- 01/15 Ben Spera
- 01/20 Thomas Mansfield
- 01/21 Garrett Smith

The deadline for the February edition of **The Link** is Jan. 16. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Golf Tournament

Our Golf Classic 2009 will be held Monday, May 4 at Bellport Country Club. We will have full details soon but it's not too early to start thinking about friends and associates who play golf. We will need 72 golfers.

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 patchogueumc@yahoo.com.