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The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

January 2010

Edited By George Hoag

Happy New Year

What a blessing to be a part of those celebrants of Christmas 2009. “To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). God is good, always good to us. In this season of Christmas, we await and long for the Christ who comes to us as HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE.

Hope—We fear nothing because God promised to be with us. As we hope to experience God’s presence in our lives this Christmas, let’s celebrate with the words of hope from Titus 2:11-13, “For the grace of God has appeared for salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ.”

Peace—As children of God we have to live in peace of mind and body. Our God is a peace-maker. 1 Corinthians 14:33 “God is not a God of disorder but of peace.” All

Continued on Page 4

Worship In January

January 3, 2010 (Epiphany Sunday)—Genesis 1:1-5, Matthew 2:1-12; “God begins.....”, Rev. In Koo Chung.

January 10 (Baptism of the Lord)—Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17,21-22; “We are beloved”, Rev. In Koo Chung.

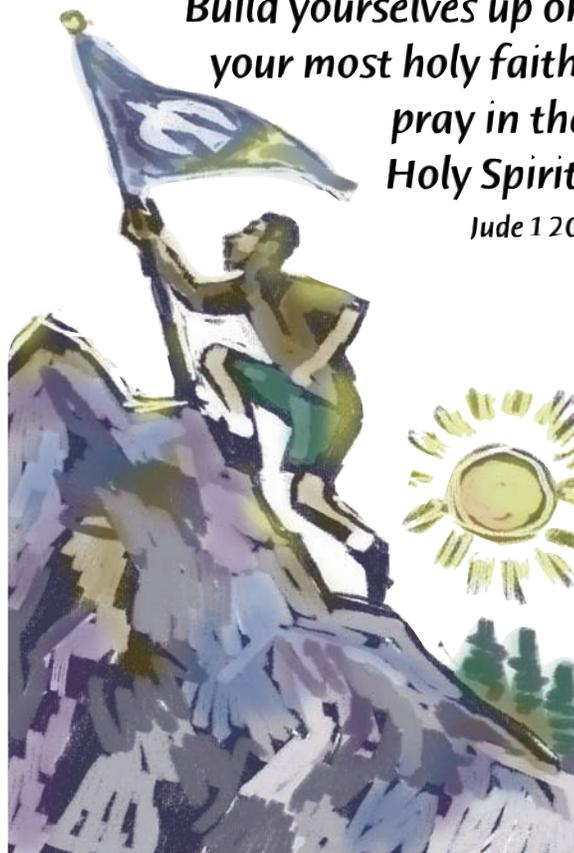
January 17 (2nd Sunday After The Epiphany)—Isaiah 62:1-5, John 2:1-11; (Lay Speaker).

January 24 (3rd Sunday After Epiphany)—Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10, Luke 4:14-21; “Power of the Holy Spirit”, Rev. In Koo Chung.

January 31 (4th Sunday After The Epiphany)—Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52; “New Life in Christ”, Rev. In Koo Chung.

**Build yourselves up on
your most holy faith;
pray in the
Holy Spirit.**

Jude 1 20



Relating People to Jesus Christ and God's Word

Circle of Concern

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, Ray Gallo, 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, Pat, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Philip Crandall, Rose Conti and Dean Butera's mother, Toni, and Bob Pignataro.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Baby Joseph, Bertha Smith, Shelly Granger, Bob Tenaglia, Rachel Nason, Corinne Burdett, Cheryl Keeley's mother in law, Marie, Louis Adone, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne.

These at Home:

Betty Hansley, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Eric & Pat Carlson, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Frank Westerland, John, Mike Welsh, Hazel Freely, Dave McKendrick, Paul Rice, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, Rosemarie, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Brayden Lasko, Steve Rice, John Keeley, Marie Lino, Marta June Barile, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph and Mike Amodio.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

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; 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, Rachel Nason 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; Joan Simpson, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, 101 Elm Street, Sayville, NY 11782; Connie Halliwell, Our Lady of Consolation, 111 Beach Drive, West Islip, NY 11795.

Prayer Shawls



Prayer shawls have been made and bless at the healing service for Alice Zahnd, Selma Graham, Connie Oumenia, Connie Esposito, Connie Halliwell, Lucille Bartlemae, and Marge Miller.

Shawls and blankents are now being made for Philip Crandall and Dorotea Mendoza.

The women working on these shawls are Denise Whelen and Kathy Loris.

Stewardship

What a great day of giving, Thanksgiving at our Church 2009. Like the story of the loaves and fishes, it began with a request from Ed Klingel for food and volunteers. On Thanksgiving Day we were feeding over 250 people! At one point in the afternoon every chair of the ten plus tables was filled with hungry people. Thank God for the many generous people who cooked turkeys for the dinner, as we needed them all.

There had to be at least seventy five volunteers to cook and serve. Our Confirmation class served. Many volunteers from outside the Church participated, including our friends from ALANON. Younger children of families that served made Thanksgiving cards for our guests. A local celebrity, Kevin Connelly, served and then went out with flyers to bring in more people

One person who stood out was our Administrative Assistant, Chris Saas, who collected dozens of winter coats and blankets to give to our guests, and served food from the kitchen most of the day.

There are still a large number of adult and children's coats available. Please give them to a family that may need them. We want to thank all those who supported this great sharing event.

The Food Ministry, our proposed monthly soup kitchen, is developing well. Barbara Becker, chairperson, has received \$1000 from our own UMW (United Methodist Women) and another \$1000 as seed money from the Presbyterian Church of Rocky Point. We'll be serving dinner on the 4th Thursday of every month. A committee has been formed and those inter-

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

ested in participating can call Barbara at 475-1792.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is growing. Denise Whalen has been working with Kathy Loris preparing prayer shawls for eight members of our congregation. A prayer for the recipient is said with each stitch. Two more people have requested shawls. If you would like to participate in this rewarding endeavor, or know of some one who needs one, please call Denise at 730-3656.

The Healing Ministry is held on the third Sunday of the month (weather permitting) at 7:00 PM. Selma Graham ministers, while Ken Miller and/or Carlton Browne provide music for the services. Prayer and hands on healing (if requested) make these services uplifting to all who attend. See you on Jan.24.

Francesca Artus is collecting personal hygiene items for those living in shelters on the East end. Items needed are tooth brushes, paste, soaps, shampoos, etc. A zip lock bag is given to each person with the items collected. Please be generous to those who have so little. A collection box is in the Church Office.

Don Kolacki and our friends from the UMC of Bayport cleaned up the leaves at the parsonage. Barry Burrell noticed that the lights along the long outside staircase of Wesley Hall were not working. He cleaned and repainted the protective cages, replaced a broken fixture and installed new bulbs. Steve Rice, on the day before his second knee operation, worked with me to neutralize the rust and recoat an old tinned roof at the parsonage. The old adage that an ounce of prevention is

worth a pound of cure is true in preventive maintenance. There are many conditions at the Church and parsonage that need maintenance: rusting handrails, roof recoating, masonry sealing, etc. Most of these we can do ourselves. Ignoring this maintenance will cost us dearly eventually. With the coming of warmer weather, we will be asking for volunteers to fix these conditions.

Our sanctuary was beautiful this Christmas. Under the direction of Geri Sheridan the greens were hung, Poinsettias were placed, and all had a moving Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to all who helped decorate and take down those greens.

Bill Loris has been doing Income Tax returns for Church members for years. He donates half the fee back to our Church. If you are looking for a new "tax man", please call Bill at 286-2695.

The Finance Committee will provide statements for two forms of giving. There are pledges, a commitment for a weekly or monthly amount. There are also non-pledges, where you support the Church with what you can. Envelopes are provided for both.

Our hard working Financial Secretary, Tom Bracken, has a reasonable policy that if you do not have envelopes, then we will not tract your giving or provide statements. We suggest that you give with checks, so you have receipts.

Through this bleak economic time and this busy holiday season, your fidelity to the Church has shown through. The Stewardship Campaign in November with an inspiring sermon by Glenn Adone, testimonials by Carla

Gibson, Kate Weber and Steve Rice, and a series of sermons by our beloved Pastor, your commitment has surpassed last year in meeting the budget. This will allow us to put more energy into doing God's work in our community and the world through outreach and missions. May God be with you and keep your spirit in the embrace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—David Hollowell

Mission Monies

The primary focus of United Methodist Women is to be in mission. Each year we sponsor several fundraising events, such as the Holiday Fair, Soup Sundays, bulb sales and White Elephant sales to earn money for different missions and ministries.

In 2009, thanks to the hard work of our UMW, with assistance from some of our congregational "cool guys" (You know who you are) and the support of the congregation, we were able to donate to the following:

- \$1500 as our pledge to mission, supporting UMW projects in the USA and the world.
- \$1200 to our church to help with operating expenses.
- \$1000 to the new monthly free dinner program beginning in February.
- \$500 for ESL supplies.
- \$200 in matching scholarships to June grads.
- \$160 to purchase a new table and six chairs for Wesley Hall.

Thank you all and thanks to God for guidance and vision and the gift of life.

—Barbara Becker

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Happy New Year (from Page 1)

we need to do is to live at peace with one another regardless of any differences. Peace of God be with you this Christmas!

Joy—When the wise men saw the star they were filled with joy, for they knew a new king was born who brings joy to the sorrowful. John 16:20, 22 say, “Your pain will be turned to joy and no one will take your joy from you.” What a great assurance! All we need to do is to believe. This Christmas let us pray that nothing will take our joy from us. In whatever situation, let us invite God to dwell in us so that we can experience joy even in difficult times.

Love—“For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16). Our God is a God of love; God loved us before we loved God.

UMC of Patchogue, I hope and pray that you may experience God’s hope, peace, joy, and love in the New Year.

—**Rev. In Koo Chung**

Soup Sundays Return

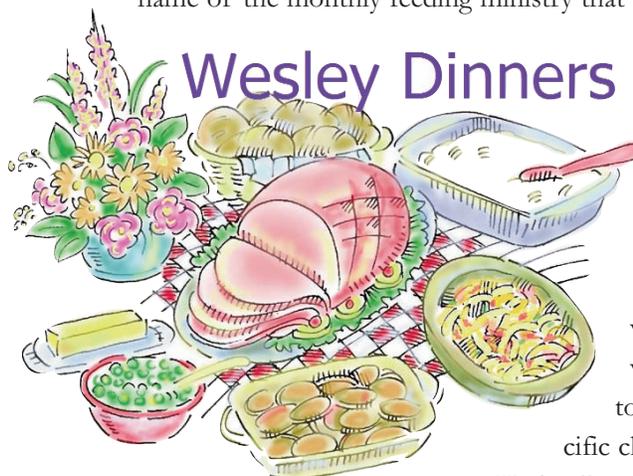
During the month of January, homemade soups will again be available for purchase during coffee hour. Prepared by the stellar soup chefs of our UMW, these soups are guaranteed to be tasty. So, on Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24, and Jan. 31, be sure to check out the selection of the day, available for take-out or eat-in, at modest prices.

—**Barbara Becker**



Wesley Dinners

You may be looking quizzically at the above heading and wondering, What is a Wesley dinner? I'm glad you asked. Wesley Dinners is the new name of the monthly feeding ministry that our church will begin in



February 2010. We will be serving a free dinner on the 4th Thursday of every month, from 5-6pm, to anyone who would like to dine with us.

The name came about when Kathy Wells and I were discussing what name to use on the program specific checking account—“Soup Kitchen” sounded a little patronizing and “Feeding Program”, in addition to being boring, sounded more like a dietary supplement for horses. So, since John Wesley was always committed to helping those in need, and, since we would like to consider those who enjoy the meals as our guests rather than numbers served, in a rare flash of brilliance, we came up with “Wesley Dinners”.

The ministry will be run by the Steering Committee. Thus far, the following positions have been filled: Trudy Mansfield will coordinate all volunteer activities; Carol Kirschner will be responsible for food safety; Steve Shadbolt will coordinate cooking and menus, with the help of Joanne, Courtney, and Brian; Kathy Wells will be treasurer. Temporarily, the responsibilities of the other positions will be shared by the Outreach Committee, BUT, we will shortly need a president, vice president, secretary, fundraising coordinator and fundraising secretary. Any of these positions can be shared.

We begin operations with a bank balance of \$2000: \$1000 from our own UMW; \$1000 from the Rocky Point Presbyterian meal program, whose coordinator, Carol Moor (who is Kathy Loris' mom) has been wonderfully helpful in many ways. Eventually, we hope to link with Long Island Cares and Island Harvest for food and equipment donations. Also, if the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) begins accepting new programs, we will apply to them.

Volunteers are the heart of such a program. The more we have to set up, serve, and clean up, on a scheduled basis, the more efficient we will be and the lighter the workload for all. Please talk to Trudy if you would like to help. Also, Carol K. will be scheduling a thorough kitchen cleaning for mid to late January. The more hands, the quicker the work.

This is an exciting ministry, where our faith and our works are joined. A peaceful and joyful new year to all.

—**Barbara Becker**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> HAPPY NEW YEAR	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship	<i>4</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>5</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School	<i>11</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>12</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee	<i>18</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>19</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 7:00 p.m.—Healing Service	<i>25</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>26</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School						

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We want to get urgent announcements and news to you in a timely fashion and in order to do this we need everyone's current e-mail address. If you haven't been getting messages from us, it means we don't have it. Please send your e-mail to patchogueumc@yahoo.com or call the church office.

The deadline for the February issue of **TheLink** is Jan. 15. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net. Thanks.

War Touches Our Family Once More

A UMNS Commentary

By Rev. Harold Bales*

Dec. 10, 2009

It is Advent, the beginning of the traditional time of year when Christians are reminded of the birth of Jesus and the biblical promise of his Second Coming.

It is a time of anticipation for followers of Christ. Every year, this blessed season arrives in a new context. Times change and our challenges are always evolving. Some things are getting better for the human family. Other things remain the same.

Sometimes the whole Earth seems to groan under the weight of profound human woes.

At a recent worship service, the following words were part of my prayer with the congregation:

“Again this year, as so often in the past, we pray to you, God, against a backdrop of wars and conflicts in this world. Prince of Peace, Lord, raise up and empower wise peacemakers. Grant, O God, that we will waste no more human lives on the altar of human sin, arrogance, ambition and pride. Make us learn to pour our resources into the advancement of civilization rather than into the pockets of those who profit off conflict and human misery.”

This is an especially poignant time for our family. Our oldest grandson, John White, completes his U.S. Army basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. He will spend a brief time in Germany. Then he will be deployed to Afghanistan.

We now join those other families whose daily prayers will intensify immensely.

It is a relatively small group of Americans touched so directly by war this Christmas. Most of us read the news with a generalized detachment and a shrug: “It doesn’t much affect us.” But for we few who have loved ones at risk, a different emotion applies.

Our family has a long history of military service to America, in every war dating back to the Revolutionary War. In the Civil War, ours, like many others, was a divided family. Most of our ancestors were in the Union Army, but some served in the Confederate Army. One of our grandfathers died in a Confederate prison camp.

When the nation called, our family has been quick to answer. We honor the men and women from our family who have served and continue to serve.

Still, I detest war.

Those who cause wars to arise violate most of the Ten Commandments and most of the principles of civilized behavior. So often the origins of war are found in aggressive ambitions against neighbors. Greed and covetousness power the conflicts. The urge to control others is a motivating force. The list goes on and on: racial and cultural enmity, national arrogance, religious pride, ignorance, bigotry, hate.

So, we yearn for the Prince of Peace in this Advent and Christmas season to do his work in this world. We want no more families to suffer the grief of the loss of a son or daughter to war. We want no more loss of innocent people at the hands of murderous barbarians. We want all people to sleep in safety.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

We want children to be healthy and well fed, educated and happy. We want old people to be at ease in their final years. We want justice and peace for everyone.

We love our John. He is dear to our hearts. We are proud of him. And we pray for him and all others who follow a sense of duty into the service of peace. We pray that God will protect them and that they will always be on the side of what is right and just in this world.

***Bales writes a weekly column “The Southern-Fried Preacher” and is a “semi-retired” minister of visitation at Trinity United Methodist Church in Kannapolis, N.C. This commentary was published by the United Methodist Western North Carolina Annual (regional) Conference.**

A Soldier’s Prayer

Brave warriors, should fate find us in battle,

May our cause be just.

May our leaders have clear vision.

May our courage not falter.

May we be triumphant and earn victory as we show mercy to our enemies.

May our efforts bring lasting peace.

May our sacrifice be always appreciated by those we serve.

May we return to our loved ones unharmed.

Should we be harmed, may our wounds heal.

Should we perish in the struggle, may God embrace us and find for us a place in His Kingdom.

—*faithfulcross.com*



**The United Methodist Church of
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TheLink



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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 Service Requested



- 1/3 Colby Schwartz
- Madion DesRoches
- 1/4 Gabriella Heiss
- 1/5 Shannyn Torbert
- 1/9 Alexandra Schechner
- Sean Randall
- 1/11 Juliette Pampalone
- 1/13 Matthew MacDonald
- 1/15 Ben Spera
- 1/20 Thomas Mansfield Jr.
- 1/21 Garrett Smith
- Kyle Smith
- 1/23 Michael Falcon
- 1/24 Analiese Wood
- 1/26 Tessa Masem
- 1/29 Courtney Weiss
- 1/30 Vincent Aurigemma
- 1/30 Jesse Cesarino

How can I use the New Year To better serve my Lord?



I'll read my Bible every day,
And be more in accord.
I'll find new ways to serve others;
I'll love my neighbor, too.
I'll focus on "give" instead of "get"
In everything I do.
I'll forgive the people I'm mad at;
Angry feelings I'll discard;
I'll try to love my enemies,
Even though it's hard.
In the new year, I'll lift people up,
Instead of putting them down.

I'll fill my heart with love and joy,
And never wear a frown.
I'll let go of my worries;
I'll put it all in His hands;
I'll repent and try to sin less,
And obey all His commands.
These new year's resolutions
Are difficult, at best,
But there's something I can do each
day
That will put my soul at rest:
I'll love my Lord with all my heart,
With all my mind and soul,
And if I do that essential thing,
All the rest will be in control.

—**Joanna Fuchs**