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TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

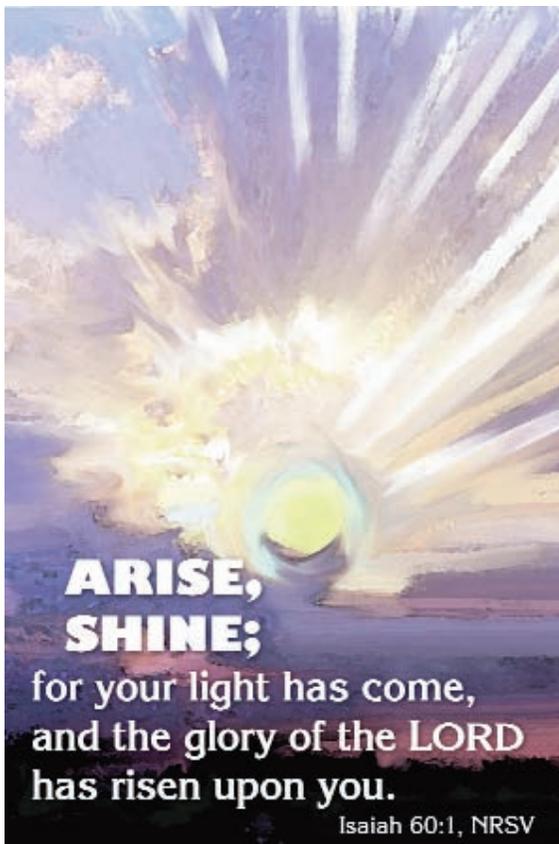
January 2012

Edited By George Hoag

Thus Far The Lord Has Helped Us—Happy New Year 2012

Without a doubt we have been blessed at Patchogue UMC in many ways. Even when we go back and look at how challenging and many times hard the year 2011 was for many of us on a personal standpoint, I believe as a church we saw the glory and the hand of God upon us.

My dear friends in writing this communication I can't hold back in saying



Worship In January

Jan.1—Guest Preacher Rev Glenn Adone, Isaiah 61:10, 62:3, Luke 2:22-40.

Jan. 8—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *The Light of Epiphany*, Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12.

Jan. 15—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Called? Me?*, 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19, John 1:35-42.

Jan. 22—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Revolution!*, Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Mark 1:14-20.

Jan. 29—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *As One with Authority*, Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28.

that God counts on us as his body to represent him in a promising way. It seems that whenever we think God has done all that he could do, he surprises us again and again with more blessings. Do not overlook God's blessings. God entrusts us with little at times to see if we are faithful in that and then the outpouring begins.

I'm ready for an outpouring of his spirit that will overflow on the life and ministry of our beloved church. Are you? God hasn't let us down yet.

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the LORD has helped us.'" (1 Samuel 7:12)

At the start of this new year, may you set up a memorial, a reminder, as you look back and say with the prophet of old, "Up to this point God has helped me." And Ebenezer reminds us that we can go forward, because He will continue to help us and be with us.

May this new year bring us courage and hope from Him who says "I will never leave you, nor forsake you."

—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez



Circle of Concern

For Bereavement: For the Family and Friends of Kitty Brunnemer.

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Holly Nelson, 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, Wilfredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice, Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen, Rubano, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans, Dean and family, Rachel Nason, all those who have lost their jobs, Eileen Paduano, Carlos Alvarado, for the Nations of Africa, Tim and Paul, Christine, Mr. Bralla, Pete and Carol Moore, prayers of comfort for police and fireman and all those who risk their lives to make ours safe and better, Glenn Hollins, Raquel Miller, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell and Linda, Stephen Martin, Rosalie Rosen, Lori Purificato, Ashley Lauren and Jose Garcia. For those in our church community who are fighting against cancer, Linda Morgan. Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Amy Vining, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, and all humanity that are sick and suffering in the world.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Peter Moor (Kathie Loris' father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Sue Buck, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D. Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Mr. Tallon, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Glenn Hollins, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Glenn Schwartz, Todd Skwirz, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante and Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Tony Vigorito, Amelia McCarthy.

These at Home:

Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, 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, John Casale, Mr. O'Keefe, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, former Patchogue Village Justice, Donald Howie, the Moultrre Family, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Muriel Vilar, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother,) Catherine Interrante, Arthur Rice.

** Please contact the Church Office if someone should be removed or added.*

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

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

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

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

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

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Adult Study



On Wednesday, Jan.11, we will continue our overview of the Bible as we begin to look at the New Testament. This is a perfect time to join this study. We meet

at 7:30 PM on Wednesday nights in the Choir Room. The cost for a book is \$15. Please contact Debbie Kolacki at 363-6499 or debbiek88@yahoo.com if you'd like to join or would like more information.

We also have an ongoing Bible study on the gospels on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in the 3rd/5th grade classroom. Just show up or contact Debbie Kolacki for more information.

To join the study which meets on Friday mornings, please contact the church office at 475-0381.

The deadline for contributions to the February edition of TheLINK is January 20. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

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



A Christmas Carol Is A Smash

The Larry Body directed version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was presented in our sanctuary on Dec. 9 and 10. Attendance both nights was excellent and we made \$2,829 for our church.

Many, many thanks to everybody involved. The commitment over a period of weeks was tremendous. Special thanks to Larry, and to the co-producers, Barbara Becker and Wendy Hollowell. In the picture above, the cast posed before the Friday night performance. They include Carl Di Modugno as Scrooge and Bill Queresimo as Marley. Also, Brenda Klingel, Christopher D. Fretto, Lenny Baer Pearson, Robert Murphy, Danielle Alfred, Dominique Napolitano, Abdiel Sanchez, Meghan O'Leary, Emma Shea Sparling, Sasha Kratz, Sarah Lynch, Don Kolacki, Debbie Kolacki, Wendy Hollowell, Gayle Hernandez, Don Miller, Jennifer Kratz, Robert Hindia, Mary Berkowitz Pirraglia, Kyle Matthew Niehr, Christopher Reynolds, Kody Miller, Kathleen Wells, Robert

Hindla, Helen Smith, David Hollowell, Jacob Miller and Liana Pirroglia. Kyle Miller. Jacob Miller, Kyle Niehr, Liana Pirraglia, Suzanne Bannon and Julie Anne Lynch were in the ensemble. George Hoag was the narrator, Martha Campanile and Irma Gurman were the pianists, Carolyn Willis Falvey played the flute and Jen Parry and Maria Glucker were the violinists. Carol Kirshner was the costume mistress, Dan Schappert and Max Neukirch handled the lighting and Suzanne Bannon was the assistant stage manager.

This was a major unpaid commitment by many people from outside our church and we are very grateful.

Co-producer Barbara Becker notes that Charles Dickens wrote his classic Christmas story in 1843, but its message is just as relevant today. The message is that love and generosity of spirit are worth more than all the wealth in the world, and, once you understand that, you can change your life. How well that resonates with Jesus' message of hope and redemption.

Stewardship

Our congregation has answered Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the poor. Through our food pantry, Wesley Dinners, and your donations of clothing, many people had a nicer holiday season.

The Thanksgiving Dinner was like a story out of the Bible. When a course began running low, a member of the congregation or friend of the church came in with what was needed. Some eighty seven people ate from one to three full plates of food, and then asked for take home dinners. There was enough food left over to fill a car that brought it to Pleasant Gardens in Bayport. The number of volunteers to cook or serve was great. Barbara Becker and the members of the Wesley Dinners Committee thank all those who provided food or help at the Thanksgiving and Christmas season dinners.

The Patchogue Kiwanis club provided Thanksgiving baskets to our church to be given to anyone in need. These good people also gave our church a large

Continued on Page 4

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

The Walk to Emmaus



on the Emmaus weekend?”, “What happens afterward?”, and “What is the Walk to Emmaus?”

My personal answer to the first question, and the main reason I chose to go, is bullet-pointed right in the pamphlet: “may have unanswered questions about [my] faith”. I re-read it all the way through while writing this, and everything in the flyer is straightforward, true and accurate. Also, in the pamphlet all those questions are in capital letters. In retrospect, this is funny, because even now I find myself wondering: “What IS the Walk to Emmaus?”

None of those who attended before me told me any of the details, other than what is already printed in the pamphlet. Looking back, I realize there are two reasons for this: 1) in spite of the fact that a number of people are participating in the same exercises and experiences, it is an intensely personal journey, and had I been told some of the details, it might have lessened the journey for me (I over-analyze things – duh); and 2) I simply can’t explain what happened there, except to tell you that I have never felt the presence – and love - of God, Jesus, and the hearts of His children more directly or powerfully.

Perhaps the best way to answer the question lies in the things that have happened subsequently in my life. I have re-committed myself to Jesus, after having been “born again” 39 years ago, and simply walking away from Him. My prayer time is now fresh and vital and crisp, like a cool fall morning. I have a sense of real peace in my heart – not all the time (after all, I still drive the L.I. Expressway most weekends!), but now I know where to go to find it. And, as it relates to our church right here: I now realize that there is a huge difference between “Tom doing God’s work”, and “God working through Tom” – kind of a perspective thing, if you will...

I don’t know what God will do in your life if you take this journey. I can only tell you that, for me, I’m really glad that I did it. God’s grace is a gift – now I really understand just how precious a gift it is. Yours in Christ.

—Tom Bracken

Stewardship (from Page 3)

number of wrapped gifts that were given to members of the church, those in the ESL class or at the Christmas season dinner.

Our MYF is forging ahead in doing Christian work. They collected items for the “Adopt a Grandparent” program. Christmas packages were given to our shut-ins during Christmas week. They visited McPeaks Adult Home to deliver some of the gifts and did caroling for the patients.

The MYF is planning a movie outing in January, the date TBA. They are planning a “Smile Train” fund raiser for the spring. The Spaghetti Dinner this year will be raising money for children with cleft palates. Every \$250 they raise will provide an operation to correct these deformities.

Kathie Wells’ Stewardship Campaign letter and questionnaire provided lists of those who would be willing to help in the food pantry, the office and many other needed areas. Tom Bracken, our Financial Secretary, works countless hours, especially at the end of the year on your statements. On top of this, he also supervises the counters.

There are many good stewards. One family has donated their holiday bonus for the last several years. A recent member has become our guardian angel. He installed new wiring and lights for “A Christmas Carol”. A Salvation Army officer who attended the band concert, donated \$1,000 for our building.

Listening to the comments on the beauty of our sanctuary at the concert and at “A Christmas Carol” filled me with pride. Sometime it takes others to see what we take for granted.

—Dave Holowell, Stewardship

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School</p>	<p>2 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p>3 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School Un-hanging of the greens 11:30 a.m.— Finance/Trustees</p>	<p>9 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p>10 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School</p>	<p>16 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p>17 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>21 8:30 a.m.— Defensive Driving Class</p>
<p>22 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School</p>	<p>23 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p>24 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School</p>	<p>30 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p>31 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>

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**WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

Pledges for 2012 now exceed our \$80,000 goal. Thank you. That does not mean we need no more revenue. Please feel free to pledge or to change your amount at any time. And please make every effort to keep your pledge promise current so we can pay our bills on time.

What's Cool In Sunday School

"You may speak but a word to a child, and in that child there may be slumbering a noble heart which shall stir the christian church in years to come." Charles Spurgeon

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Eve. Thank you to everybody who helped out with our Christmas Pageant. It is a truly wonderful feeling to know that I can count on my church family help to help me and our kids. They worked hard and I hope you enjoyed it.

May the new year find you happy, healthy, and blessed.
Yours in Christ.

—Elizabeth Biederman, Sunday School

United Methodists Score High In Survey

United Methodists rank highest in favorability among five different faith groups in a new survey conducted by the Southern Baptist Convention's research arm.

The research shows United Methodists are held in more favorable regard by the U.S. public than Catholics, Southern Baptists, Mormons or Muslims, according to LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

“(United) Methodists are well liked — and there is great opportunity if (United) Methodist churches will seize the opportunity that this positive perception provides,” said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research. “If they will show and share the gospel with their neighbors and plant evangelistic churches ... they can turn a good reputation into a gospel opportunity.”

The study was conducted in September after the president of the Southern Baptist Convention appointed a task force to consider a possible name change for the 166-year-old denomination.

A group of 2,144 online respondents was shown the names of five denominations or faith groups and asked to “indicate if your impression is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable, or you are not familiar enough to form an opinion.” Sixty-two percent claimed a very or somewhat favorable view of United Methodists compared with 59 percent for Catholics, 53 percent for Southern Baptists, 37 percent for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (commonly known as Mormon), and 28 percent for Muslims.

Because the LifeWay survey focused on gauging the need for a name change,

respondents were also asked whether seeing any of the five faith groups' names on the church sign would be an indication to them that this was “not the church for me.” Other than nondenominational churches, United Methodists had the lowest rating — 26 percent, meaning the name is not a deterrent.

For the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive officer of United Methodist Communications, the LifeWay survey reflects the impact of the church's public messaging campaigns. It follows research by other organizations showing that the denomination's media awareness campaigns have raised the church's profile in the past decade.

“The research confirms that external media are significant in influencing how people perceive religious organizations,” Hollon said. “Our efforts to reach people through these channels have had positive results.”

The United Methodist Church was included in the survey to represent the mainline Protestants among the sample, according to LifeWay Research.

“Since the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest evangelical denomination, four other denominations or faith groups were selected for comparison. The Catholic Church is the largest denomination in the U.S. The United Methodist Church is the largest mainline Protestant denomination in the U.S. Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and Muslims were chosen as examples of large groups not typically categorized in one of those first three categories,” said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research.

LifeWay also found that “two-thirds of Americans are without strong feelings in regards to all the Christian faith groups included in the survey, with a third or less

either very favorable or very unfavorable to them.”

The Lifeway research reinforces the findings of a 2008 Gallup poll that showed United Methodists have the highest positive ratings of religious and spiritual groups in the United States.

The United Methodist Church has had a decade-long effort to raise awareness of the church through its Igniting Ministry and Rethink Church initiatives. The church began the “Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.” advertising campaign in 2001 to increase awareness and recognition of the denomination's basic beliefs and to promote willingness to visit a United Methodist congregation.

Research on the effectiveness of the advertising reflected a steady increase every year from 2001 to 2007. Acknowledging the need for the church to reach a younger demographic, the campaign evolved in 2009 with the launch of Rethink Church, an effort aimed at globally minded 18- to 34-year-olds to highlight the opportunities available within United Methodist churches to make a difference in the world — from literacy programs to feeding the poor.

Making a difference

Global service events also serve as physical entry points for seekers. United Methodist churches around the globe joined for Change the World, a two-day service event in May 2010 and 2011. More than 100,000 people from 1,000 churches in 13 countries hosted events in which volunteers distributed food, planted gardens, tutored youth, raised funds for worthy causes and more. In 2011, church participation increased, dispatching 250,000 volunteers and serving more than 3 million people.

—Joey Butler, UMNS

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
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A Stitch Of Faith Prayer Shawl Ministry



The prayer
OF THE RIGHTEOUS
IS POWERFUL
AND EFFECTIVE.

James 5:16, NRSV

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year. For those of you who are not familiar with the prayer shawl ministry, we are about healing minds, bodies and souls. As we make the shawl, blanket, scarf, or square, we pray for the person who is going to receive it.

These could be for joyous occasions as

well. I have made one for a new bride, as well as for a child being baptised. The idea is not to pay for the shawl but to make a donation if you are able, for the next one being made. I have had some angels make donations of yarn and funds to assist this ministry. For them I am truly thankful .

The prayer shawl ministry is growing. I have some faithful angels who assist me whenever I need them. Kathy Loris, Linda Stawecki and Trudy Mansfield have helped me when my list gets long.

If you need a prayer shawl, blanket or a prayer square, please contact Denise Whalen at 631-289-1351 or put a note on your prayer request for the pastor. God bless you all. Your sister in Christ.

—Denise Whalen



- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Jan. 3 | Colby Schwartz |
| | Madison DesRoches |
| Jan. 4 | Gabriella Heiss |
| Jan. 6 | Shannyn Torbert |
| Jan. 9 | Sean Randall |
| Jan. 11 | Juliette Pampalone |
| Jan. 16 | Ben Spera |
| Jan. 24 | Analiese Wood |
| Jan. 26 | Ella Masem |
| | Tessa Masem |
| Jan. 29 | Courtney Weiss |
| Jan. 30 | Jesse Cesarino |

