

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2008 Edited By George Hoag



Money Problems Get Critical; All Church Meeting Scheduled

The May 2007 Link included an article reporting on an April presentation to the Church Council on the very serious condition of church finances, the depletion of our cash reserves, and the small percentage (10%) of church members who had pledged.

Nothing has changed in a year except that the situation is much more serious. In 2007, we spent \$55,000 more than we received in all church income. That means our income was only 75% of what we required. Our budget is a bare bones one and there do not seem to be any significant areas for expenditure cuts. We must increase our revenue.

We withdrew \$20,000 from our endowment fund at the beginning of the year. That fund, our remaining reserves, now totals \$31,000.

We have outstanding bills for health insurance, liability insurance, appor-

Continued on Page 2

Worship in June

June 1—Lectionary Readings: Psalm 46; Genesis 6:11-22,7:24,8:14-19; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28; Matthew 7:21-29. Sermon Title: *Red Hot Reality: A House For You*. Join us to hear about a great deal from Red Hot Reality – a House Built On Sand. During this worship time, we will officially welcome Freddy Balseca, a General Conference delegate from Ecuador. Mr. Balseca's family lives in Patchogue, and he will visit with them until September. We will celebrate communion in both English and Spanish at the conclusion of worship.

June 8—Children's Sunday School Sunday & Church Picnic Sunday. Baptism Sunday for: Alexander & William Alfonso-Zea, Gavin Anthony Nuzzo, son of Frank & Jessica Schroeder Nuzzo, and Molly Jean Fudal daughter of Brian & Jennifer Fudal and granddaughter of Irene & Tom Baumfalk. Francesca Artus will present her Girl Scout work.

June 15—Fathers' Day. Worship Reading: Psalm 1; 1 Kings 19:1-18;1 Corinthians 4:10-13; Luke 9:18-23. Sermon Title: *Willing To Be A Fool*. Join us to celebrate fatherhood, and to honor all the men who have represented fatherhood to us and to all members of our church family.

June 22—Baptism Sunday for: Emma Grace Leddin, daughter of Edward & Christina Leddin, granddaughter of Ed & Suzanne (April 14, 1950–July 1, 2007) Leddin, great granddaughter of Marge Prince. Lectionary Readings: Psalm 17; Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-33. Sermon Title: *Only One Thing To Fear*. This will be Rev. Stevens' last Sunday to lead worship. She will move to her new pastoral appointment during the week. Worship on June 29th will be led by the congregation's Lay Speakers, under the direction of the Dean of Lay Speakers, Ken Miller.



Put these words of mine in
your heart and soul
Teach them to your children

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV

Circle of Concern

For Joys:

Katie Weber's friend Steven Santiago has returned safely from Iraq. Jessica and Frank Nuzzo's new son (and Barbara Schroeder's grandson), Gavin Anthony, born March 11th, 6lbs, 15oz, 19 and 3/4" long. The Chae's granddaughter was given a gold medal from New York State as a writer amongst young writers.

For Bereavement:

Family and Friends of: Richard Simpson; the family of Maria Guadron's father; Beulah Wylazlowski; George Roessler, Sr.; Olive Ann Cox; John Williford, John Emerson Bransford; Ruth Siebert.

For Guidance:

Steven Santiago, 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, the Stawecki family, Maria Spera and family, Elise Gavrock.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Kathleen Wells, Kathy Lebbins, Eric Carlson, Isaiah and his parents, Michael Abate, Howard Alt, Aunt Lee Kraemer, Zachary, Doug Brown, Deborah Belmonte, Joe Schievone, Alicia Sophabmixay, Marge Kirkup, Vincent Maggio, Maggie Reynolds, Warren Davis, Liam Keady.

These at Home:

Ernie Titus, Linda Werner's friend Lois, Lucille Barthelme, Jean Miller, Wayne Stawecki, Henry Prince, Maria Agtuco, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Rick Healy, Lisa Ann Manginelli, Catherine Cullen, Tom Furman, Krysten Wagonberg, Antonio Salgada, Ann Mazie Diema, Robert and Don DeLaVergne, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Carol Knapp, Mary Ceaser, Josephine and Louis Adone, Ed Erdmann, Ruth Masem, and Kitty Dayton, Billy Drew, Cheryl Ward.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

George and Shirley Strauss; Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY 11772; Anna Satterly in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue, NY 11772; Lew and Kitty Brunner 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!

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

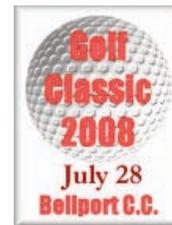
Finances (Cont. from Page 1)

tionments and fuel oil that by the end of June could consume nearly the entire amount of the remaining reserves.

Clearly, we must do something and it is time to consider some drastic options. Those options will be discussed at an all church meeting which we have scheduled for Wesley Hall on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m. Our discussion will be preceded by a pot luck supper.

The meeting will be attended by our accountant, Bob Murphy (a member of the Babylon UMC Board of Trustees) and also by three members of our congregation, all of whom are professional money people: Kathy Wells, Tom Bracken, and Deon Louis. But you don't have to be a professional to participate. Please come and help us. We will have child care available, so bring your children along.

Golf



Our Golf Tournament, scheduled for April 28 was rained out and has been rescheduled for Monday, July 28 at Bellport Country Club.

We are still in need of additional players and Tee sign sponsors. Please make very effort to recruit golfers. If you or a member of your family is not a player, please consider asking those you know who are.

We are committed to a minimum of 72 players and are still several four-somes short.

We also will be collecting Chinese Auction type baskets for prizes.

General Conference (Cont. from page 1)

Hymnal Revisions Approved – revised collection of hymns and worship aids are to be presented to the 2012 GC. Our current hymnal was adopted 20 years ago.

Judicial Council – five new members were elected; all candidates had been put forth by Council of Bishops – centrist; defeat for right wing fundamentalism and the IRD.

Ordination process made more accessible – reduces possible years from entry into candidacy until ordination by two years and opens the process more.

Global Health Initiatives were approved – campaign to raise \$75-\$100 million to fight malaria and other diseases.

Church Structure – a group was set up to study the viability of reorganizing the 11.5 million member UMC into “regional conferences,” so that it no longer appears as if the UMC is comprised primarily of the US with satellite groups in Africa, Asia and Europe.

This would allow each region to deal with social issues pertinent to itself before coming together as General Conference.

Full Communion agreement has been reached with the Lutherans that recognizes the authenticity of each other’s baptism and eucharist and the interchangeability of all ordained clergy. ECLA will vote on the agreement in August, 2009.

The retirement age of Bishops and clergy was raised. Bishops now may not begin a quadrennium over the age of 68 (was 66) and clergy retirement

was raised from 70-72.

A plan was adopted to reduce the number of bishops in each Jurisdiction by one.

A phrase was added to membership vows in which new members will now pledge to be faithful in “their witness” as well as in their “prayers, presence, gifts and service.” This addition highlights the mission and evangelistic responsibility of the laity.

\$20 million approved for Africa University in Zimbabwe – half thru apportioned funds and half thru special gifts.

Other Highlights

Leaders remembered dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction.

Attention was called to plight of immigrants.

UM Mission Initiatives Summit – April 13, Plano TX – lifted up evangelism and church growth.

UMC in Cote d’Ivoire, Africa, was received into the UMC – 700,000 members.

A Letter From The Bishop

Dear Rev. Judith Stevens:

Greetings in the name of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ!

Congratulations! Your church is among 382 churches in the New York Annual Conference that paid 100% of their shared ministry apportionments in 2007. This again is the highest number of 100% churches exceeding last year’s previous record. With you, our conference is continuing its progress towards the goal of all our churches sharing in the joy of complete faithfulness to our United Methodist connec-

tional covenant. Also, we received 92% of all apportioned dollars from our churches—another record! More and more United Methodists are catching the vision of a church in mission that makes a transformative difference for Christ locally and globally. Accordingly, for now the fourth year in a row, thanks to churches like yours and the good stewardship of our Council on Finance and Administration, the New York Annual Conference was able to fulfill our general church shared Ministry Apportionments covenant 100%.

Please know that I do not take your fulfilling the connectional covenant of apportionments for granted. I don't and I can't! I know that it took a real commitment, faith and sacrifice for the sake of the ministry of Jesus Christ-to make it happen. I know it was done because you believed in the mission of the church. I know that it was the result of your hard and conscientious labor in the field of Christ’s ministry and your prayers to be faithful to our God who called us to be a church in mission for such a time as this. Thanks be to God that your fulfillment of the Shared Ministry Apportionments bears witness to the heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world!

Please express to all your members and friends my deepest gratitude for your outstanding witness. May God continue to richly bless and honor your church and its ministry. It is indeed my joy and privilege to serve the Church of Jesus Christ with you.

With you in Christ's Ministry,
Jeremiah J. Park

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

General Conference Recap

General Conference is held once every four years, this year in Ft. Worth Texas. Rev. Stevens was a delegate and this is her report. In the picture she is participating in a legislative session.

I. General Concerns



The theme was: “A Future With Hope---Making Disciples for Jesus Christ and the Transformation of the World.”

General Conference began on the 40th anniversary of the day EUB united with Methodist Church in America to form UMC.

General Conference was less centered on issues in U.S. as had been in the past. Part of the reason was that 278 of the 992 delegates were from outside U.S.—100 more than 2004 GC.

General Conference received 1,564 pieces of legislation, 540 fewer than 2004 but we had one less day to work. The additional day was reinstated for General Conference 2012. This year, there was rarely time for meals.

General Conference adopted a \$642 million budget—4.8% increase over current quadrenium

Four areas of focus for church for next four years were identified:

- Developing principled Christian leaders
- Creating new congregations and reviving existing ones
- Engaging in ministries with the poor
- Improving global health

Speakers Included:

- Liberian president and UM Ellen John Sirleaf – first African leader and first female head of state to address UMC

- William Gates, Sr. – Nothing But Nets partner - \$20 million+ raised since 2206

- Bishops
- First Young Person’s Address
- Laity Address
- President Bush (a United Methodist) declined, though Laura sent greetings

II. Main Concerns and Issues:

UM Mission Statement was revised – “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The latter words were added to give the first section a purpose. Why are we making disciples, as an end in itself or to join in God’s redemptive mission to the world?

A. Issues

Abortion – A resolution to withdraw from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice was defeated by a narrow vote (416-384). We added a statement to the Social Principles offering “ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies” and to assist the ministry of crisis pregnancy and support centers that help women “find feasible alternatives to abortion.”

We also added the phrase to the Social Principles section on abortion: “respects the sacredness...of the unborn child.”

Divestment from Israel was defeated, instead adopting a petition calling for the church to continue to advocate

for a peaceful settlement of the conflict...through negotiation and diplomacy rather than through methods of violence and coercion.”

Homosexuality

- Rejected changes proposed by the Legislative Committee on Church and Society to language in Discipline that would have acknowledged that church members disagree on homosexuality. Instead voted 501-417 to adopt a minority report that retains language in the 2004 Discipline.

- Retained language affirming that all people are “individuals of sacred worth created in the image of God” while asking “families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.”

- The Council of Bishops sanctioned a peaceful demonstration the day after debate and votes on the issue. Advocates for full inclusion were allowed to walk silently through the aisles of the assembly and cover the communion table with a black shroud

- The language in the Discipline regarding pastoral authority over church membership did not change

- Petitions to remove transgender persons from ministry were defeated.

- By a narrow vote, current language that prohibits UM pastors from conducting civil unions was retained..

- A new resolution was adopted to oppose homophobia and heterosexism.

Many other issues were addressed---war and peace, capital punishment, the environment---with no substantive changes to previous positions.

B. Other Actions and Concerns Addressed

Continued on Page 4

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship	2 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	3 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	4 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—Rotary Youth Exchange Meeting	5	6	7
8 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.—Church Picnic	9 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	10 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	11 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	12	13	14 8:00 p.m.—Soul-Food Coffee House with the music of Kristyn Leigh
15 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Finance Committee	16 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	17 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	18 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	19 6:30 p.m.—Pot Luck Supper and All-Church meeting on Finances	20	21 9:30 a.m.—UMW Meeting
22 10 a.m.—Church School/Worship	23 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	24 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	25 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	26 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.—Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	27	28
29 10 a.m.—Church School/Worship 11:30 a.m.—Trustees	30 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA					

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The 209th Session of The New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet June 11 to 14 at Hofstra University. Dr. Stevens and Annual

Conference Lay Members George Hoag and Ed Klinge will attend.



"Because you can't take your camera phone with you.
That's why nobody knows what heaven looks like."



A Message from Bayport

The Bayport United Methodist Church softball team has been playing in the Suffolk Christian League for about 10 years. It's a fun, well organized, non-cut-throat, Christian

League. The season runs through July and the games are usually on Monday evenings. Our home field is at the James Wilson Young Middle School in Bayport. We invite anyone in the Patchogue United Methodist Church (age 15 or older) to join us for the fun and fellowship. It costs about \$65 per person for League fees (they provide umpires), t-shirt, and cap. If you are interested, please call Don Kolacki at 363-6499 or notify the church office at 475-0381.

UMC.org Reviews *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!*

Production Company: 20th Century Fox Animation; Director: Jimmy Hayward, Steve Martino; Cast: Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Seth Rogen, Will Arnett, Carol Burnett; Rating: G

By Gregg Tubbs



(UMC.org)— "A person's a person no matter how small." Ask a random sampling of people where we get that saying and a surprising number will say without hesitation, "Horton Hears a Who!" One of the many talents of Dr. Seuss' uncanny ability to distill sound morality into simple, indelible rhymes. With the new big screen version, I wondered if the charm, imagination and message that have made Horton a "Seussian" classic would survive the modern, CGI treatment and often excessive talents of Jim Carrey as Horton. Well, as Seuss himself may have put it, "With animation divine and performances true, even me (Seuss himself!) can love this Horton Hears a Who!"

Long before the Grinch tried to steal their Christmas, the cheery little Whos of Who-ville debuted in Seuss' 1954 story of an eccentric elephant who hears voices from a dust speck. The book tells the story of Horton the Elephant, known for his wild imagination and kindly disposition. In an earlier book, "Horton Hatches the Egg," Horton tenderly perched on an abandoned egg in order to hatch it. This time, his over-protective attention

becomes focused on a tiny dust speck on a clover blossom because only his acute elephant ears can hear what no one else in the Jungle of Nool can detect—the sounds of a microscopic world inhabited by Whos.

Thankfully, the movie stays close to the book, and at less than 90 minutes, contains very little padding. In one major change, however, Horton's main Who contact in the book, Dr. Whoovee, is swapped for the Mayor of Who-ville, agreeably voiced by Steve Carell. Having discovered this tiny world, Horton promises to protect the Whos and gingerly carries around the clover blossom and its precious dust speck, all the while conversing with Who-ville's Mayor. But there are those in the jungle who don't approve of such odd behavior, don't believe in anything they can't see, and certainly can't recognize the value of any person small enough to fit on a speck of dust.

As the forces of convention and conformity close in on Horton—led by an autocratic Kangaroo (voiced by Carol Burnett)—Horton and the Mayor call for the Whos, one and all, to make a racket—to shout, clang or trumpet—anything loud enough for others to hear. With the Kangaroo leading the cry to "Boil the dust speck," and the Whos shouting out "We are here, we are here!" the final fate of the Whos lies in the hands of the smallest and meekest of all. Through it all, Horton withstands ridicule from a mob that believes he's either lost his mind, is a danger to the "internal security" or a complete anarchist! But Horton, ever faithful to his promise, stands firm with his famous claim that "a person's a person, no matter how small."

The makers of the popular Ice Age films have adapted Horton Hears a Who! with great care, retaining the signature look of Seuss' own artwork, but in slick, colorful CGI. The humor is whimsical and gently updated. A prime example is when the strict Kangaroo claims her little kangaroo is being "pouch schooled." The vocal talents are all on target, with no one going over-the-top or trying to upstage the story. And Charles Osgood's narration gives the film a warm, comfortable feel, while allowing us to enjoy even a little more of Seuss' own words from the book.

Best of all, the many lessons of the original Horton remain intact. Foremost is that every person, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, has intrinsic worth. The world of the tiny Whos is as real and worthy as that of the jungle animals, and as the film implies, who's to say the Jungle of Nool isn't itself a tiny speck in a bigger world? The story also teaches through the character of Horton himself. Although not the brightest, most beautiful or graceful creature in the jungle, Horton is blessed with a huge heart, tremendous loyalty, tenacity and compassion. We also learn not to be too quick to criticize or judge, just because we haven't seen proof of something ourselves. Remember "doubting Thomas" and the risen Christ? And finally we see that sometimes success depends on the best efforts of everyone—even the smallest!

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who! is a great piece of entertainment, as relevant today as it was 50 years ago, and is filled with laughs and lessons suitable for the whole family—as Seuss might say, "for both the tall and the small."

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
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Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.
Supervised Nursery during worship.

Church Picnic

UMMen will sponsor our annual Church Picnic on Sunday, June 8, 11:30 to 3:30 at the Holtsville Ecology Center on Buckley Rd. in Holtsville. The men will supply food, drinks, and paper goods. Please bring a dish or dessert to share.

Call the office, 475-0381, for more information.

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Thanks to the Mothers' Day Plant Sale helpers, The Mothers' Day Plant Sale netted \$1100. A special thank you to Susie Conti who organized the sales, delivery, and crews; to Jean Miller who sold lots of white elephant items and contributed the income to the plant sale proceeds.



- 06/02 Shannon Leahy
- 06/04 Aspen Chase
- 06/04 Megan Hyman
- 06/06 Brianna Salvia
- 06/07 Joseph Famulari
- 06/07 Billy Hacker

- 06/07 Brendan Collazo
- 06/09 Autumn Meyer
- 06/09 Nicholas Lyons
- 06/12 Kelly Castanza
- 06/13 Jennifer Furman
- 06/13 Jocelyn Furman
- 06/17 Adam Mulderig
- 06/19 James Carfora
- 06/22 Katelyn Erdmann
- 06/22 Donal Morrissey Jr.
- 06/23 Kyle Schwartz
- 06/23 Emily Weiss
- 06/25 John Layton
- 06/25 Brandon Gessow
- 06/25 Logan Fudal
- 06/28 Matthew Stawecki
- 06/30 Lance Marques



Remember that you can make a financial pledge, to continue the work of our church, at any time. If it is more convenient for you, pledges can be automatically charged to a credit card or deducted from a checking account on any schedule you prefer. Call the church office—631-475-0381—for more information.

Summer ESL

Summer ESL will begin the first week in June. Classes will be held on Tuesday & Wednesday evenings, and the teacher will be Mrs. Jean Romeo.

July-August Link

The next issue of **The Link** will be a combine July-August edition. Please submit your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net by June 20.