

The Link

Since 1791

The United Methodist
Church of Patchogue



March 2008 Edited By George Hoag

The Amistad

In June of 1839, the slave ship Amistad was on its way to the Cuban port of Puerto Principe, when the human "cargo" of 53 slaves, most of them captured in Sierra Leone, Africa, revolted. Under the leadership of Sengbe Pieh, later known as Joseph Cinque, they succeeded in overthrowing the captain and seamen. Hoping to sail back to Africa, they were blown off course and drifted up the coast of the United States. In August of that year they came ashore off Long Island hoping to buy food and supplies. Instead, they were arrested and the ship was towed to New London, Conn. Two trials followed. At the second trial, they were defended by John Quincy Adams and subsequently acquitted and released. The impact of this trial and acquittal was tremendous on American history.

On Mar. 2, Rev. Penny Gadzini will speak on the Amistad and the modern day version of the ship that seeks to educate all peoples on the basic human rights of freedom and justice

Please join us for worship that Sunday.

—Barbara Becker

Worship In March

Mar. 2—Rev. Penny Gadzini, a clergywoman in our New York Annual Conference, is affiliated with Amistad America Inc., a non-profit organization based in New Haven, Connecticut. The organization's mission is to educate the public on the history of slavery, discrimination, and civil rights. This is done through a replica of the ship La Amistad, which transported slaves in the late 1700s. Penny will deliver a narrative sermon and celebrate Holy communion.

Mar. 9—Bruce Kirschner is trying to line up a group who has played for the Soul~Food Coffee House, to lead us in worship. Ken Miller, Dean of Lay Speakers, is the Worship Planner.

Holy Week Worship—March 16–23

Palm Sunday—Palm Sunday Breakfast will be served in Wesley Hall 8–9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday is, on the one hand, a triumphant day in the life of Jesus. Crowds greet him in kingly fashion, with palm branches, as he enters Jerusalem. On the other hand, Palm Sunday is a foreshadowing of the events that unfold, ultimately leading to Jesus' crucifixion.

Palm Sunday Worship: Lectionary Readings: Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 - 27:66. Sermon: The Power Of Humility.

Maundy Thursday—This is the day for remembering The Last Supper, which was Jesus' celebration of the Passover meal. The name comes from the Latin

"He has risen
from the dead ..."

Matthew 28:7, NIV



Continued on Page 3

Relating People to Jesus Christ and God's Word

circle of Concern

For Joys:

The birth of Jerry and Janet Alt's new granddaughter, Kathleen Elizabeth, on January 23rd. The marriage of Blake Johnson and Mildred Valderrama. June Barile is starting her layspeaking course this week. Katie Weber's friend Steven Santiago has returned safely from Iraq.

For Bereavement:

Family and Friends of: John Williford, John Emerson Bransford, Ruth Siebert, Kathleen Chinard, Judy Hatton, Helen Redding, Louise Flood.

For: Billy Drew and his family, Sherwood and Barbara Cooper and the Hamm family, Marge Prince & family, Pat O'Shea and family.

For Guidance:

Steven Santiago, Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, David & Lori Purificato, Ray Gallo, Elizabeth Tucker, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Brenda Bonfe D'Angelo, the Stawecki family, Maria Spera and family.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Julie Cangro, Deborah Belmonte, Joe Schievone, Alicia Sophabmixay, Marge Kirkup, Vincent Maggio, Maggie Reynolds, Warren Davis, Liam Keady, Mike Welsh, Alicia (in the Janet Weiss Children's Hospital in Scranton, PA).

These at Home:

Wayne Stawecki, Henry Prince, Wendy Hollowell and her mother, Maria Agtucio, Ed Leddin, Sr., Dave Hollowell, Aunt Lee Kraemer, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Rick Healy, Lisa Ann Manginelli, Catherine Cullen, Tom Furman, Jessica Nuzzo, Krysten Wagonberg, Antonio Salgada, Ann Mazie Diema, Robert and Don DeLaVergne, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Carol Knapp, Joan and Richard Simpson, Mary Ceaser, Margaret Prince, Josephine and Louis Adone, Ed Erdmann, Ruth Masem, and Kitty Dayton.

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 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.

UMW News

The organization of United Methodist Women is a community of women on the local, national, and international level. We combine the spiritual search to know God with mission work that serves God's purposes. The UMW has been an active part of this congregation since 1872, when it was known as the Women's Foreign Mission Society.

Each year we support the many mission projects of UMW in this country and throughout the world by meeting our financial pledge to mission. In addition, we have participated in projects of our own, including 'adopting' two families in Appalachia; holding 'baby showers' for children of abused women; and assembling health and school kits for UMCOR. (United Methodist Committee on Relief.)

Each fall, we hold a women's retreat at Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island. The theme for this year's, which takes place the first weekend in October, is "Prayer"

On Mar. 15 at 10a.m., we will host a program entitled "Spirit of Women", which will focus on a holistic approach to women's health.

Come and join us. Learn while enjoying the company of other UMW. Refreshments are always served.

Meeting dates though June are as follows:

April 19; May 17; June 21. All these meetings are on Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

All women are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barbara Becker or Sue Silhan.

—Barbara Becker

Holy Week Worship (Cont. from Page 1)

word Maundatum, commandment, because Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.”

Maundy Thursday Worship (7:30 PM): Lectionary Texts: The Chancel Choir will present music for our time of worship and we will celebrate Communion as we remember Jesus’ Last Supper.

Good Friday—The Friday in Holy Week is the day of the cross—a time for remembering Jesus’ death. Sorrowfully, we remember that Jesus died an excruciatingly painful death. We also give thanks that God took the horrible act of crucifixion and did something absolutely incredible with it, turning it into the day of ultimate forgiveness: Easter Sunday.

Good Friday Worship (7:30 PM): Join us in the Cloud Room as we celebrate a traditional Tenebrae Service, walking with Jesus through the shadows that led to his cross.

Holy Saturday—For the first time since I have served PUMC, we will enjoy worship on Saturday evening (7:00 PM- 8:00 PM). Ernest Ipke, Certified Lay Speaker, will lead us as we experience The Stations of the Cross.

Easter Sunday—Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, and much more. God’s raising Christ from the dead was a triumph over the worst evil the world had to offer. Faith in God’s continued power affords us the ability to hope, to anticipate God’s ultimate triumph over the evil of our world today.

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Mascot Dock, 6:00 a.m. Mascot Dock is located at the end of South Ocean Avenue.

Easter Worship: Join us for a joyful celebration of worship at 10:00 AM. Nursery/child care will be available for pre-K children K-Youth Sunday School groups will worship with us on Easter Day. Lectionary readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18. Sermon: Go Mary!

Mar. 30 is the Second Sunday of Easter. Easter is more than just one Sunday! Lectionary readings: Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a,22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31. Sermon: Red Beetles & Purple Hair. The lectionary readings ask what the resurrection of Jesus means to those who love and follow him? What are the effects on their lives?

- The resurrection of Jesus brings joy and peace in the midst of fear.
- It brings healing in the midst of pain a scar, after all, is a reminder of both pain and healing, of the trauma of being wounded and the possibility of being made whole.
- The resurrection provides purpose in the midst of confusion and aimlessness.
- The resurrection offers life in the midst of death; not simply life eternal, but life in abundance.

—**Judy Stevens**

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Youth News

The Youth Group and friends will not meet after worship Mar. 2.. Instead, the group and their friends will go bowling 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. at Sayville Bowls, 5660 Sunrise Hwy. Sayville, NY, Phone: 567-8900. Everyone should meet at the bowling alley. Costs: \$3.25 until 5:00 p.m. and \$4.75 after 5:00 p.m. The cost is per person per game, and if we arrive before 5:00 p.m. the cost per person per game remains \$3.25. The cost of shoes is \$4.35, all day.

Rev. Stevens will be in Fort Lauderdale on that day and the adult coordinators and chaperones will be Diane Zimmerman, Bob Prince, Joanne & Steve Shadbolt, and Dave Purificato.

While the Pastor Is Away

Program Coordinators are:

The Monday evening Disciple 2 Bible Study will be led by Brenda Klingel.

The Wednesday evening Covenant Group will be guided by June Barile.

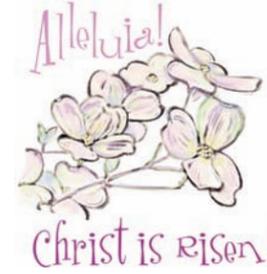
The Saturday evening Covenant Group will be guided by Kathleen Wells & Tom Bracken.

Pastoral Care: Rev. Ursula Scheike of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior will cover pastoral needs. Please also contact Barbara Becker or Walter Stawecki, our Lay Leaders so they can offer support or assistance.

Copy for the April issue of the *Link* is due March 14.

Sharing Easter with Your Children

by MaryJane Pierce Norton



Easter is the key experience of the Christian faith. Do you believe that? After all, we are Easter people.

Yet we often find it difficult to talk with children about Easter. Oh, not the part about new clothes, changes in the seasons, and the joy of Easter day. What makes it hard to talk with our children about Easter is that we cannot come to Easter without death. And talking with a child about death is no easy task.

Look at how differently we approach Christmas. Talking about a new baby, the joy of Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men is fun. There is a hint of danger, for the Herod plots to kill all the boys in Bethlehem two years old or younger. But we also know that Jesus escapes.

We feel at ease with Christmas. We give gifts, remembering the gifts of the wise men. We sing songs, recalling the familiar words of the scripture. We look forward to Christmas with joy. And we impart that same joy and excitement to our children. Part of our task as adult Christians is to share the Easter story with same ease.

"Why was Jesus Killed?"

Often we have done a good job helping our children see Jesus as a man

worthy of love. They learn that Jesus loved people. Jesus taught people about God's love, and he cared for people whom others ignored or ridiculed.

It's really hard to understand how a man we see as good could then be mocked, tortured, and put to death. It is always a shock to be confronted with the events of Holy Week.

Children will have questions about Jesus' death. Particularly older boys and girls will be struck by the injustice. They see Jesus as good, and it won't seem fair for such a man to be beaten and killed. It is important to struggle with our children around this question. We can help children understand that it was not God who put Jesus to death but other people.

The scripture tells us that there were people who did not like Jesus, his teachings, or his actions. These were people who brought about his death. It might even be helpful to look with your child at specific teachings of Jesus. Talk together about why people might not like what Jesus had to say about loving your enemy, trusting God, or dealing with anger.

Resurrection is Surely God's Act

Jesus' death is one part of the Easter story. For us, the Easter message comes in what happens next: new life and resurrection. Pick up your Bible and read again the wonder of the resurrection. What a powerful witness we have in the Gospels to this act of mystery and wonder! If Jesus' death was the act of humans, the resurrection is surely God's act. Through the Easter experience, we make the simple faith statement: Jesus lives.

Talking about the resurrection can

be as frightening to adults as talking about death. How in the world do we explain to our children that Jesus was dead and in the grave for three days, then lived? Younger children may not ask the questions of "how" and "why" expecting detailed answers from adults. Older children do want to know how and why.

So how do we deal with the resurrection? Think a minute about this event. Pick up your Bible and reread the account in all four Gospels. After reading the scripture, write down your thoughts and feelings.

Can you explain the resurrection? Probably not. It is a mystery and a wonder -- and a statement of faith. Saying "I believe" does not always mean understanding fully an event or happening.

In talking about this with children, it may be helpful to say, "I wonder about that, too." You may want to share other things that happen in the world that you do not fully understand. Invite your child then to reflect on times when they might not have factually understood an event but felt it to be real.

As you prepare for this Easter event in your family, try the following:

Talk with your children and listen to their thoughts and feelings about Easter. Using the phrase "I've often wondered about ..." can be the way of opening up the conversation.

Share memories of past Easters. Share some from your childhood as well as remember together past Easters in the family.

—**MaryJane Pierce Norton, UMC
General Board of Discipleship**

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship/UMW Soup 11:30 a.m.—Teachers Meeting 11:30 a.m.—Youth 1-3 p.m.—PRAAT Training	3 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	4 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	5 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	6 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	7	8 5:00 p.m.—St. Patrick's Dinner 7:30 p.m.— Soul-Food Café: Frank Rendo
9 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Finance Committee 1-3 p.m.—PRAAT Training	10 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	11 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	12 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	13 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	14	15 9:30 a.m.—UMW
16 8-9:30 a.m.—Palm Sunday Breakfast 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Youth 7 p.m.—Healing Prayer Service	17 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	18 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	19 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	20 7:30 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Worship, music by Chancel Choir	21 Good Friday UMMen Plant Sale 7:30 p.m.—Good Friday Worship, Cloud Room	22 UMMen Plant Sale 7p.m.—Holy Satur- day Worship, Sta- tions of the Cross
23 6 a.m.—Ecumenical Worship, Mascot Dock 10 a.m.—Easter Sunday Worship	24 7 p.m.—AA	25 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	26 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	27 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	28	29
30 10 a.m.—Church School/Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 1-3 p.m.—PRAAT Training	31 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA					

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UMC.Org Reviews The Great Debaters

Production Company: The Weinstein Company/Harpo Films; Director: Denzel Washington; Cast: Denzel Washington, Forest Whitaker, Nate Parker, Denzel Whitaker, Jurnee Smollett, Jermaine Williams, Gina Ravera, John Heard, Kimberly Elise; Rating: PG-13 for depiction of strong thematic material including violence and disturbing images, and for language and brief sexuality.

By Gregg Tubbs

(UMC.org)—"We do what we have to do so we can do what we want to do." That's the mantra heard throughout the stirring new drama, *The Great Debaters*, directed by and starring Denzel Washington. This motto strikes at the heart of the hard road those who smash racial barriers must travel. This is familiar territory for Washington, who has played it out in war (*Glory*) and sports (*Remember the Titans*). But if it's familiar theme, the new backdrop of a college debate team breathes new life into the struggle for racial equality, and when you've got the talents of Washington, Forest Whitaker and a group of bright young newcomers, it's a tale worth seeing and learning from again.

Inspired by a true story, *The Great Debaters* plunges us into the Jim Crow South of the mid 1930s—a time when blacks endured the daily indignity of discrimination, and racial violence always simmered just beneath the surface. The film tells the story of the debate team at Wiley College, a small Black college in Marshall Texas. Washington plays the part of the brilliant but mercurial English professor

and debate team coach, Melvin B. Tolson. Professor Tolson teaches his students the power of reason and words and forges a debating juggernaut, able to go head to head and mind to mind, against any team in the country. At the height of an incredible run in 1936, the team even travels to face off the Harvard debate team in Boston. (The historic debate was actually against the reigning champions, the University of Southern California debate team.)

Tolson inspires his small, underdog team to believe in themselves, their cause and the truth. A true agent of change, Tolson was also an important figure in tenant farmers rights and continued to battle injustice—against both whites and blacks—throughout his life. He instilled in his team the belief that they could use these competitive debates for more than personal glory; they could also be tools of change and enlightenment. As we learn in the epilogue, his team takes these lessons to heart—one becomes a lawyer, another a minister and the youngest, James L. Farmer, Jr., becomes one of the most important figures of the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Shattering the vicious concept that one race is mentally superior to another required a different type of competitor. These debaters were competitors of the mind. Their battlefields were the great halls of knowledge, and their weapons were ideas, reasoning and persuasion. With the backdrop of competitive team debates, the film explores, even dissects, issues such as social justice, civil disobedience and workers rights, without feeling static or preachy. As director, Washington earns kudos for infusing these debates with both

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

passion and intelligence.

Wiley College is one of the oldest historically black colleges west of the Mississippi, and has strong ties to the United Methodist Church. The college was founded in 1873 by the Methodist Episcopal Church's Bishop Isaac Wiley, and it remains a member of the International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU). Its Christian roots are evident from the very beginning when Wiley professor and president James L. Farmer, Sr. (Forrest Whitaker), the first black Texan to hold a doctorate, exhorts incoming freshmen with words from Corinthians to "put away childish things" in preparation for the rigors of college and the desperate challenges of the outside world.

There is so much to recommend this film, but two things—in particular—stuck with me. First, that big change often must come one small, painful step at a time. We see the incredibly delicate balance Tolson and his team must strike between fighting back and laying low, choosing their battles wisely and often swallowing their pride for the greater goal. Secondly, *The Great Debaters* denies us any complacency about the ugly reality of racial violence. A pivotal lynching scene leaves you dazed and winded like a punch in the gut. It reminds us again that this was a life and death struggle, and it required incredible courage to take a stand.

The battle against racism is far from over. *The Great Debaters* reminds us that it still has the power to shock, shame and inspire. Without a doubt, this is simply one of the best and most powerful films of the year.



The United Methodist Church of
Patchogue
10 Church Street
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The Link

Rev. Dr. Judith Stevens, Pastoral Minister
Kathleen D'Angelo, Office Assistant
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www.gbqm-umc.org/patchogue

Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.
Supervised Nursery during worship.



Golf

Our 2008 Golf Classic will be held on Monday, April 28 at Bellport Country Club. Bellport is a new location for us, but it's one that should prove attractive to golfers.

The 18 hole "Bellport" course at the Bellport Country Club facility features 6,234 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 71. The course rating is 70.1 and it has a slope rating of 118. Designed by Seth Raynor, the Bellport

golf course opened in 1899.

It will be a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start, with registration and lunch beginning at 11:30. Cocktails and dinner will follow play.

This year, we are doing a joint effort with Camp Quinipet and they are helping us find golfers. As we found out the last two years, we don't seem to have many golfers in our church. It is critical, however, that we recruit at least 18 foursomes. So if you have any relatives, or neighbors or friends who play, please let them know. If you have any contact information that would be helpful to us, please let us know. We will also be seeking items for prize packages. Geri Sheridan is the Golf Committee Chair.

St. Patrick's Dinner & More

Our annual St. Patrick's Dinner, featuring corned beef and cabbage or Irish Roasted Chicken, will be held on Saturday March 8, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Adult tickets are \$13.00. Children under 12 are \$ 7.50.

You can make this an even bigger night by staying on for the Soul~Food Coffee House, featuring the music of Frank Rendo, which follows at 7:30.

The Palm Sunday all you can eat Breakfast is from 8:00-9:30 a.m. Adults are \$6, children under 12, \$4.

The Easter Plant Sale will be on Friday & Saturday, Mar. 21 & 22, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. on the church lawn. For more information about any of this, call Bob Prince at 758-1917 or the church office.



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3/9 Kyle Jacobsen

3/10 Thomas Wassmer

3/11 Heather Malito

3/11 Leanna Stone

3/14 Laura Ann Feldman

3/14 Jack Ryan

3/15 Lauren Halliwell

3/17 Jeremy Puglia

3/19 Marguerite Abate

3/19 Joseph Brewer

3/23 Jacob Zelenka

3/27 Corey Schwartz

3/27 Matthew Zotos

3/27 Michae lcheck