

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

March 2009

Edited By George Hoag

In loving memory of Gerda MacDonald

On Through Lent

We have started the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. It was a great and meaningful moment that we gathered together to start the journey of Lenten season and experience God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' journey to the cross and the joy of resurrection, I hope that we all can prepare ourselves in full to do what God wants through a special learning and praying time.

Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance.

How to practice Lent

There are three main practices of Lent (1) reflection on the significance of Christ's death along with prayers of repentance and confession, (2) fasting as a means to focus more wholly on God, and (3) giving to assist the poor.

Continued on Page 2

Worship in March

Mar. 1 (1st Sunday in Lent)—Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15, "You Are My Beloved Son", Rev. In Koo Chung.

Mar. 8 (2nd Sunday in Lent)—Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38, "Take Up Your Cross", Rev. In Koo Chung.

Mar. 15 (3rd Sunday in Lent)—Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22, "House Cleaning", Rev. In Koo Chung.

Mar. 22 (4th Sunday in Lent)—Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21, "Faith, Light and Truth", Rev. In Koo Chung

Mar. 29 (5th Sunday in Lent)—Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33, "Unless A Grain Of Wheat Falls....", Rev. In Koo Chung.



**FOR THE WAGES
OF SIN IS DEATH,
BUT THE GIFT OF GOD
IS ETERNAL LIFE IN**

Christ Jesus
O U R L O R D .

ROMANS 6:23, 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, Joanne, and Connor.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Howard Alt, Deborah Belmonte, Baby Joseph, Gail Devery, Mike Welsh and Jan Boyd.

These at Home:

Betty Hanley, Cliff McClean, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, 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, Florence Carde, Frank Westerland, Elizabeth Biederman, Paul Rice, Grace Richardson, and John.

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; Lew and Kitty Brunnermer 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!



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Saturday, March 14th at 5:00 p.m.

at the Patchogue United Methodist Church,
10 Church Street & South Ocean Avenue, Patchogue

With a choice of traditional corned beef and cabbage or Irish roasted chicken.

\$13 for adults and \$7.50 for children under 12.

Call the church office at 475-0381
or Bob Prince at 576-9773 for more info or if you would like to help.

.Let us break bread together and have a blessed happy Saint Patrick's Day.

Senior pricing & group rates available.

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

Lent (from Page 1)

1. Prayer and Meditation

Read over the Gospel accounts of Christ's arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Reflect on His suffering, and the tremendous love that it represents. Reflect on your own sin and what it cost Him. Take out some time for prayers of confession and repentance. Do some spiritual "house cleaning."

2. Fasting

Give up something for God. Fasting is not a means to "earn" something from God, but rather a way to learn to curb your appetites and focus more completely on God.

3. Giving to the poor

Giving to assist the poor. Consider doing some volunteer work. And, think about how we can show the love of Christ to others.

Lenten season is really a time of preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

I pray that we find God's special presence in our Lenten journey.

In Christ,

—Rev. In Koo Chung

Immigration —Who is Your Neighbor?

Ever since the ancestors of all modern humans walked out of Africa, approximately 85,000 years ago, we have been on the move, spreading out over the face of the earth. Of course, there were no national or state boundaries - people moved to where there were food sources, drinkable water, and other natural resources. (Salt, for example) It was all about sustaining life and raising your family.

When the human groups we generally call Native Americans first came to the North American continent, they, too, were in search of food and places to live.

They were immigrants, too, though many thousands of years ahead of the later European and other immigrant population waves. Perhaps they were slightly more fortunate than the late-comers; after all, they only had to contend with the reactions of the native wildlife already inhabiting the continent.

No wolf ever held up a protest sign telling them to go back where they came from; no badger or mountain lion ever imposed immigration quotas, or screamed that they were here illegally, taking food out of the mouths of their cubs. Okay, they might have eaten some Native Americans, but NOT because they were immigrants.

The sad reality is that, although we really are a nation of immigrants, (though for slaves and indentured servants, not by choice) we have always had an ambivalent and restrictive attitude about immigration.

● In 1790, only "free white persons" could become citizens, a rule that was not officially erased until 1952.

● In the late 1800's, Chinese laborers were banned from further immigration.

● In 1917, Asia, with the exception of Japan and the Philippines, became a "banned zone", from which immigration was forbidden.

Those who did manage to make it to our shores were often treated with scorn. My own ancestors, some of

whom arrived in the 1700's, but most in the later 1800's, were often depicted as sauerkraut-eating blockheads, thick headed Dutchmen. (What's wrong with sauerkraut?)

The Irish were famously discriminated against—particularly in the New York City area. Help wanted signs typically included the proviso that "Irish Need Not Apply". Restaurants put signs in their windows that said, "Irish and Dogs Not Allowed."

What is this all about? Is all this ambivalence and plain hostility based on a primeval fear of those who seem different—whether in appearance or cultural traditions or language? Is it an attitude of "I've got mine and I mean to keep it, so don't even think about getting yours?" Or are our immigration attitudes and laws the result of conflicting political, economic, and foreign policy agendas? I would guess, all of the above.

Certainly, we can see some of the contradictions of our foreign policy when we look at the government's

actions towards immigrant asylum requests in the 1980's and early 1990's. Since the US backed the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala in their wars against their own opposing citizens, 98% of all requests for asylum from people fleeing those countries were denied. On the other hand, during that same time frame, applications from immigrants leaving Cuba and Nicaragua, countries whose governments we opposed, were mostly approved.

Economically, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), caused great economic hardship with small farmers in Mexico, causing increased immigration.

This is a very complicated topic and one which, too often, is met with politicians scapegoating immigrants while ignoring the larger issues.

What we need is a comprehensive, rational, and, yes, compassionate examination and revision of our entire immigration policies and system.

As Christians, we have been given guidance in both the New and Old Testaments about how we are to treat strangers, immigrants. I invite you to read and reflect on the following scripture passages: Exodus 22: 20-21; Leviticus 19: 33-34; Deuteronomy 24: 17-21; Hebrews 13: 2; Galatians 3: 28; Ephesians 2: 19-22.

I also invite you to read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 and think about who is your neighbor and why.

Next month, I will write more on this whole topic and would love to hear your thoughts and comments. Peace Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

—Barbara Becker

Faith Leaders Call For Humane Immigration Reform

By Kathy L. Gilbert

People of faith must stand up for immigrants or “the moral fiber of this country will be torn beyond repair,” said United Methodist Bishop Minerva Carcaño at the launching of a national interfaith campaign for humane immigration reform.

“As people of faith, we cannot and will not stand by in silence while young people die, families are separated, individual freedoms are ignored, and the immigrant community in the U.S. is treated unjustly and inhumanely,” she declared. “No more!”

Carcaño, bishop of the denomination’s Desert Southwest Annual (regional) Conference, joined two members of Congress and several religious leaders from diverse faiths in announcing the launch of “Prayer, Renewal and Action on Immigration” at a Feb. 11 press conference in the Capitol.

The campaign is designed to engage people of faith on the immigration reform debate. More than 100 faith communities were to hold prayer vigils across the country during the Feb. 13-22 Congressional recess.

“It is really going to be a good President’s Day recess,” said U.S. Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.), who has been an outspoken advocate of immigration reform. He said he was happy and excited to have the faith community actively involved in the movement for reform.

Gutierrez will be part of a congressional Hispanic caucus holding town hall meetings on comprehensive immigration reform in faith communities during the last weekend of February.

“We are going to be in sanctuaries asking people to call President Barack Obama and the new Congress and tell them, ‘I am in the church praying,’” he added.

Rights violated

The human and civil rights of immigrants are being violated, Carcaño pointed out, citing the treatment of immigrant men by Sheriff Joseph Arpaio in her home state of Arizona.

“Just last week, 200 immigrant men in shackles and prison stripes were marched through the streets of Phoenix, Ariz. under armed guard to a tent prison encircled by an electric fence,” she said. “Apparently these immigrants were being sent to await deportation in this newly-created detention camp that brought them much human degradation and humiliation but brought much media attention to Sheriff Arpaio.”

She said Arpaio called himself an official participant in a federal policing program, 287(g), which allows a state and local law enforcement entity to enter into a partnership with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

“What is clear is that his style of policing has created a climate of fear in our communities, unleashed a vicious wave of ethnic bashing, and shown a complete disregard for basic human rights,” she said. “Arizona does not stand alone in this shameful scene, for what is happening in Arizona is happening all across this country.”

Power of faith community

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.), who is Japanese American, spoke of his personal experience about having the support of the faith community. It was

faith organizations, he said, who spoke out against the incarceration of Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

“The power of your organization can be immense and can be a determining factor,” he said. “Immigrants will be the salvation of our country because when we draw from them we draw the strength, the history and language we sorely need as a nation to work globally with the rest of the world.”

“When government officials tell us who we can and cannot help they are telling us about our ministry. They can’t do that. When they tell us not to do our ministry, we will tell them we plan to engage in civil disobedience.”

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition, sponsors of the press conference, is a partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting humane immigration reform. More than 500 congregations have signed their platform that upholds family unity as a priority, along with a process for undocumented immigrants to earn legal status, protect workers, restore due process protections and facilitate immigrant integration.

In his acceptance of the Democratic nomination for president, Barack Obama said America is a country that understands a mother should not be separated from her children, Gutierrez noted. Yet many news reports show that the Bush administration did just that. “Government cannot promise to bring people out of the shadows of darkness ... and then use that power to go out and deport people,” he said.

—Kathy Gilbert is a news writer for United Methodist News Service in Nashville, Tenn.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship</p>	<p><i>2</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>3</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery</p>	<p><i>4</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><i>8</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship</p>	<p><i>9</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>10</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery</p>	<p><i>11</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p>
<p><i>15</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship/ 11:30 a.m.—Finance</p>	<p><i>16</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>17</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery</p>	<p><i>18</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i> 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—Defensive Driving Course</p>
<p><i>22</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship</p>	<p><i>23</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>24</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery</p>	<p><i>25</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
<p><i>29</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Trustees</p>	<p><i>30</i> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><i>31</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery</p>				

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*"Look at the birds of the air;
they do not sow or reap or store
away in barns, and yet your
heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not much more
valuable than they?"*



MATTHEW 6:26, NIV



"Inspired by St. Patrick, I suppose,
Mom got rid of all of them."

UMC.Org Reviews: *Slumdog Millionaire*

Director: Danny Boyle; Production Company: Fox Searchlight Pictures; Cast: Dev Patel, Madhur Mittal, Freida Pinto, Anil Kapoor, Irrfan Khan; Rating: R for some violence, disturbing images and language.

By Gregg Tubbs



UMC.org—Kismet is a Middle Eastern term that means “destiny” or “fate.” It can also mean “portion,” referring to the lot in life that Allah grants each person. The idea of kismet hovers over *Slumdog Millionaire* like an unseen character, nudging events and people this way and that, until this harrowing tale of impoverished orphans in Mumbai, India, blossoms into an exhilarating and life-affirming experience. Do you believe in fate? After seeing a tenacious street kid rise up from India’s wretched slums to compete for a fortune and true love, you might be tempted to believe that some things truly are destined to be.

Slumdog Millionaire is being called this year’s “little film that could.” An independent film by eclectic British director Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*, *Millions*), *Slumdog Millionaire* is set entirely in India, with a cast mostly unknown to Americans and much of its dialogue in Hindi. But despite its distinct “foreignness,” it has been embraced by Western audiences and racking up awards, building box office momentum and becoming an Oscar front-runner for Best Picture. The key to the film’s success has been the universality of the human experience so vividly portrayed—the fight for survival, dignity

and love. Moreover, it’s a minor miracle that a film set against crushing poverty and shocking brutality could in the end be so uplifting.

Slumdog tells the story of two brothers headed in different directions. Jamal is pure of heart, kind-hearted, endlessly optimistic and most of all, a romantic. Salim, the older brother, is aggressive, unsentimental, lustful and easily seduced by money and power. Add into the mix the beautiful Latika (Freida Pinto), an orphan who becomes Jamal’s love and life-rope, but also a wedge between the brothers. As Jamal fights his way out of the slums into an honest, but meager life of odd jobs, Salim drifts deeper into crime, eventually becoming “muscle” for a ruthless Mumbai gangster. (Audiences are cautioned that there are scenes of violence, but none of it is overly graphic or gratuitous. Each event makes Jamal’s fated triumph all the more sweet.)

The story also borrows from Dickens—*Oliver Twist* meets Bollywood—with its class struggle, focus on poverty, and cast of beggars and pickpockets. There’s even a Fagin-like slumlord who lures Salim, Jamal and Latika into his “orphanage,” which turns out to be a school for beggars.

We first meet Jamal Malik ((Dev Patel) on what should be the biggest day of his life. He is the reigning champ on India’s version of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” and just one question away from winning a staggering 20,000,000 rupees. Rather than celebrating, we witness him being cruelly interrogated by the local police on suspicion of cheating. They and the show’s producers believe cheating is the only way the 18-year-old orphan from the slums (“slumdog”) could have known the answers. Through vibrant flashbacks, we learn about Jamal

and his brother Salim, and how their hardscrabble life has uncannily put them in the places and in contact with people that enabled him to know the answers. Jamal is not educated or cultured, but seems assisted by an unseen hand.

As the interrogation goes on, the police begin to be moved by Jamal’s rags-to-riches story, but are also curious about why this young man, who is apparently uninterested in money, has put himself so resolutely through this ordeal. That’s where we see that above all, *Slumdog Millionaire* is a love story, and the true prize is being reunited with his lost love Latika.

Slumdog is rich in themes, both basic and complex. It’s an exuberant celebration of perseverance and the triumph of the morally sound. The film also explores the power of love to lift us out of dire circumstances, and of course, the possibility of destiny. It also raises the question of moral relativism. As an audience, we see how it easy it is to cheer as desperate orphans steal and deceive in order to survive, knowing that circumstance has left them little other choice. Is their thieving right? That’s for you to decide, but you may feel differently once you walk a while in Jamal’s stolen shoes.

Maybe it’s the theme of victory over adversity that makes *Slumdog Millionaire* the perfect film for these times. During stressful times of geopolitical strife and financial insecurity, it is comforting to feel a protecting, guiding hand from above. Just as in the Great Depression when Hollywood musicals and screwball comedies dominated the screen; uplifting, joyful films provide more than escapism: they bring solace and assurance that better times are ahead.

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.

Address Correction Requested

Golf Tournament

Our Golf Classic 2009 will be held Monday, May 4 at Bellport Country Club.

We have made some adjustments this year to permit a lower cost per golfer and make the event more assessable for more people. Breakfast and registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and the tee off time will be 8:00 a.m. The event will conclude with lunch.

With this change we are able to reduce the per golfer cost to \$175 with foursomes priced at \$650, \$200 less than last year.

Invitations are available. Check with the church office. We will need 72 golfers so start thing about your friends and business associates.



- John Rogers
- 3/7 Thomas Schwartz
- Courtney Shadbolt
- 3/9 Kyle Jacobsen
- 3/11 Leanna Stone
- Heather Malito
- 3/12 Isabel Chae
- 3/14 Jack Ryan
- 3/15 Lauren Halliwell
- 3/19 Marguerite Abate
- Joseph Brewer
- 3/28 Nicholas Okun

- 3/1 Erin Bohenek
- 3/3 John Zotos
- 3/5 Bret Dorfman
- Jessica Foyes
- Matthew Lazzarino
- 3/6 Matthew Lambroschi

Our Hero of The Month

Steve Rice. For conceiving of and making happen the Valentines Day Dinner Dance. Thanks also to everybody who supported it. According to Trustees Treasurer Dianne Adone, the evenr cleared \$1302. The money will help offset the cost of the new fuel tanks we needed.



The deadline for the April edition of **The Link** is Mar. 20. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.