

The Link



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

May 2014

Sponsored this month by Rhoda and Ed Willis in loving memory of Don Meany

Edited By George Hoag

We're Changing The Way You Receive Your Link

This is the last month that we will mass mail **TheLink**.

Beginning with the June issue:

We will continue in the same format and copies will continue to be printed for distribution in the church. We will also e-mail a PDF version to every church address that we have. Please be sure that we have yours.

Also, if you still want to receive your copy in the mail we will send it to you by first class with delivery before the beginning of the month. We are happy to do that. Just let us know that is what you wish.

Duty Calls

I would like to start by thanking all of you for the wonderful opportunity of being your pastor. I assure you that the pastoral family appreciates all the love and kindness that we have received throughout the last four years.

As you all know by now, I am again serving in the United States Army. As part of my military duties I will be away for a while on military training from May 18 to Aug. 15. This does not come with out having to make some sacrifices, adjustments and plenty of

Worship In May

May 4—Guest speaker Barbara Becker, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, Luke 24:13-35.

May 11—Communion, Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, last service before three month Army duty, *What No Gatekeepers?*, Psalm 23, John 10:1-10.

May 18—Guest Speaker June Barile, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10.

May 25—Guest Speaker Tom Bracken, *Why?*, Psalm 66:8-20, 14-24, John 14:15-21.

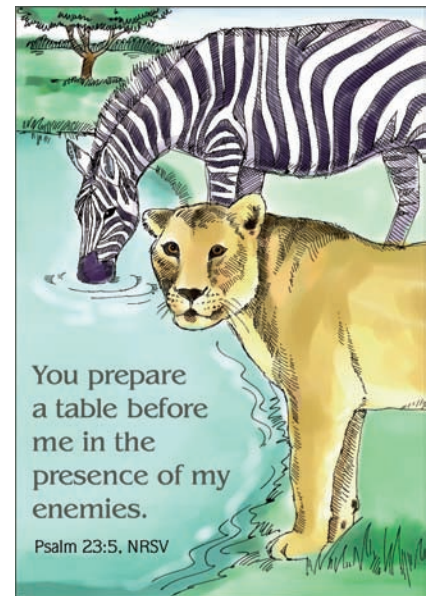
jumping some hurdles, as a father, husband, and pastor. I really hope you all understand how important you all are in my life and ministry and even my military career. I guess it also goes without saying, how much I rely on your personal prayers for me and the pastoral family throughout all this time. Ivette and the kids are always counting on you all.

As I get ready to leave towards FT Jackson SC, I will do so prayerfully and I will be counting the days till I come back and be with all of you again. In the meantime, The United Methodist Church is your house of worship; our church is a vibrant church that is sustained by God and cemented by the great outpouring of love we have for God and one another.

Don't miss out on any opportunities of being blessed at Patchogue UMC. We really need to keep the fire burning as we have seen it most recently. I expect this much from you all and more importantly so does God.

I want to leave this place with a great sensation and then when I come back I'm hoping to be surprised by your commitment to your church, the great family that is The United Methodist Church Of Patchogue. So since I don't like to say good-bye I'll say; see you all later, when we will continue praising and worshipping together. Can I get an Amen? May God Bless you All!

—Pastor Ernesto Sanchez



Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

For the Family and Friends of Earl Kaller. For the Everett Family and Friends on the loss of Bob. The Perez Family and Friends on the loss of Joseph. The Cane Family and Friends on the loss of Tim.

For Guidance:

Janice, Louis D'Amico and family, Colleen Smith, Tim and Jen Mansfield, Kathy, Bruce Clamser, Robin, Bridget and Jesse Fitzgerald, Gloria and Louis D'Amico, Charleen and family, Sheila Dreaper, Renie Meadowcroft, Charleen, Terisa John, Rocky Miller, Robin, Kevin, Jasmine Arettines, Carolyn, James Penney, Paul Rodrigues, Chris and Bonnie Hoagland, Corey, Keith Girouard, Laura and Louis Diamond, Chris Jackson, Ellie Goyco, Esperanza Candelario, Dot Fassl, Ben Capua, Kathy Mellor, Elaine Moffitt Short, Keith Girouard, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Dianna Peterra and family, Chris Jackson, Babette Bishop, Patricia Puk, Roberta Pilsen, Rich, Leah, Joann Egan, Quigley Family, Laura Magill Diamond, Elysse Klayes step-father, Tracy Iarocci, the McCoun Family.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Keyana White, Andrew Miller, Wayne Williams, Bob Venator, Ida Davis, Alice Zahnd, Ron, Carol Wehner, Ed Dew, George Birrell, Rev. Daheehlen Krazmien, Jack and Helen.

These at Home:

Wilfredo Franco, Sandy Burrell, Chester Gibson, Grace Cruger, John Puk, Harold, Carolyn Willis, Loretta Harrigan, George Roessler, Richard Vining, Frank Whalen, Justin Miller, Laurie Gaber, Sylvai, Ellie Gayco, Geri Sheridan, Dave Holcomb.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

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

Esther Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY 11772 Room 78D, 631-289-3150.

Ted Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living.

Pray for our church and its future direction.

Make your Prayer Request on line at PatchogueUMC.Org

Remember
the Church
in Your Will

The deadline for contributions to the June edition of **TheLink** is May 16. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

We Welcome Tom Goodhue

On June 15, Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue will be speaking during our Worship Service.

The Rev. Goodhue is Executive Director of the Long Island Council of Churches and an ordained United Methodist clergyman. He pastored churches in Nassau, Suffolk, and Hawaii and led youth ministry on Long Island and in California. He taught young children at the Riverside Church in Manhattan and published two collections of stories for children.

Sharing the Good News with Children (St. Anthony Messenger Press) won a Catholic Book Award. His biography *Curious Bones: Mary Anning and the Birth of Paleontology* (published by Morgan Reynolds) was named "One of the Best Books for the Teenage Years" by the New York Public Library.

His adult biography, *Fossil Hunter: The Life & Times of Mary Anning*, was published by Academica Press. He is completing a biography of the Hawaiian queen Kaahumanu, who overturned taboos and welcomed missionaries, and another book about living ecumenically in a multi-faith world.

—**Gerri Sheridan**

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

LESSONS ALONG

the Way

May God's peace be with you!

Prayer. I seem to keep coming back to it with this column. I know that it works; I know that, when I do it with a humble spirit (and for the right reasons) that I feel the closeness of God. And I know – now – after far too many years of using it as a glorified wish list or an escape clause, that I knew nothing then about the act of prayer, the essence of prayer, or the spirit of prayer. The last few years have brought me a lot more knowledge about it, but knowledge and wisdom are often very different creatures.

With that in mind, this month's "Lessons" will be a little different from the ones to date, in that I am on a quest for that wisdom, and will welcome your thoughts, your experience, and your own Lessons along the Way regarding prayer. I guess I'm looking for interactivity with my brothers and sisters in Christ on this one, which is not a bad thing (in how many of Paul's letters does he exhort the young Church to pray for and with one another?). So I'll share several of the prayer issues with which I wrestle, especially as they relate to both our church's virtual prayer ministry and my own prayer practices.

Therefore, at the risk of further exposing my spiritual ignorance—ask our Sunday morning Bible study about my theory on God's learning curve in the Old vs. New Testament sometime—the two burning questions for me are these: if God has a plan for all of us, knows our needs, is all-powerful, and loves us infinitely, then A) for what

do we pray, and B) why do we even need to pray? For example, if a member of our congregation (or a loved one, friend, co-worker – our prayer table is an open table) has terminal cancer, and we send it out to those who participate in our prayer ministry, then what exactly are we asking them to do? I'll try to share my conclusions (feelings?) with you as best I can, but I am truly asking for the experience of others in dealing with this kind of faith-question.

[Wow: I've facilitated this ministry for almost two years, and I'm finally getting around to asking that question. Now there's some solid leadership at work! But the reality is, in the performance of that simple duty, I have already learned quite a bit. Fortunately, I have the prayer team to carry me.]

I know that the correct (and right) answer to A) is that we pray for God's will. Naturally, my cynical side goes right to, "well, of course it's God's will, because, God being all-powerful, it's gonna happen anyway." But that's too fatalistic, and besides, we have choice – Adam and Eve proved that. For me, the more "human" (and yet, more Divine) answer is found in Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:19:20. After all, being all-powerful does not make our God all-inflexible—our God is MUCH bigger than that! And on top of that, having the Lord Jesus as our advocate? I think I'm starting to see a glimmer here.

Oddly enough, I think I'm on more solid ground with B). There's one overriding reason that I need to pray: the more I am in prayer, the closer I am to God, and the closer I come to understanding what God's plan is for me – not the Grand Plan, I really don't need

to know that, and probably wouldn't understand it anyway; no, I'm talking about living in the day and in the moment, making choices that will make small, positive differences in this world, and trying to walk as Jesus walked, as much as this imperfect form will allow me to do at any given moment. And yes, I still fail at all of these a great deal of the time.

But not as often as I used to.

How wonderful it would be if the younger (spiritually) of our congregation would feel safe enough, or bold enough, to ask these questions, and the more senior (spiritually) would share their experience. A workshop, a Bible study, fellowship after church, all in search of God's Truth; not just leaning on our Pastor, but leaning on each other. I'm talking about that Old Time Religion! Old time being about 1,975 years ago.

Yours in Christ,

—Tom Bracken

UMW

On May 17, The UMW will present a program on the Roma, one of the largest minority groups in Europe, and one of the most discriminated against. The program will feature a video and discussion. All are welcome. We meet at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments as always.

birthdays

May 2 Kelli Pearson

May 6 Raymond Butler
Dana Butler

May 11 Noah Lyons

May 14 Cole Morris

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

A Message from the Finance Committee Chair

I just wanted to take a moment of your time to update you on what is going on with us.

The committee has made a decision to have an extra offering on the first Sunday of every month which will be dedicated to paying our apportionments. This apportionment is sent to our NY Annual Conference Center in White Plains. Our fair share this year is \$23,740. In addition to the extra offering, we will be taking 25% of all our fund raisers profits and dedicating that money for apportionments.

What are apportionments you ask?

Simply put, it is the money used for the missions of the whole church, such as World Service Fund, Africa University and the Ministerial Education Fund. A percentage is given to the Districts to fund missions in local churches and we are fortunate to have gotten a grant from the District for our ESL classes. The teacher is paid with this grant. So some of the money we give does come back.

It is also used for Administration for the Conference Center and for the Bishop's staff which includes the 6 District Superintendents and their parsonages. The District Superintendents are the overseers of the local churches within their District. We are in the Long Island East District and our Superintendent is Rev. Adrienne Brewington. The local pastors report to her and she in turn reports to the Bishop.

How are the amounts per church determined?

Apportionments are calculated using the Pastor's Salary, Pastor's

Reimbursements, Staff Salaries, local church programs expenses and office expenses. We are fortunate enough to have full time pastor, a part time administrative assistant and a part time sexton. Our office expenses are within reason, as are our program expenses.

In other news

We have reduced our past due amount to Swezey's for past oil bills to \$28,000. With this in mind we will continue with our extra Heat offering on the third Sunday of every month. This money will continue to be dedicated to the past due amount. We are really working on trying to make a dent in that bill.

If each and every one of us gives something extra in each of these second offerings, we will be able to pay off what we owe and that would be a welcome relief.

Just a friendly reminder, please keep your pledges up to date. Thank you. Blessings.

—Dianne Adone

United Methodist Message: 'Suspend Deportations'

During the weekend of April 5-6, many prayers were said for immigrant families torn apart by deportations and those praying are hoping President Barack Obama is listening.

United Methodists joined with other faith groups and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network in a weekend of action to ask for temporary suspension of deportations, which will soon reach 2 million.

Three other denominations — Episcopal, Catholic and Assemblies of God — joined with United Methodists in a “kind of radical action for a little,

very conservative area” near Safford, Arizona, for a rally and prayer vigil said the Rev. Sherry Brady, organizer, and pastor of First United Methodist Church.

“This isn't meant to be a divisive rally. We're just sending a message: 'There's something you can do now, Mr. President: Extend Deferred Action and suspend deportation.' Let indifference end here and now,” she said.

Those gathered heard stories about women such as Leydi, whose husband was deported and whose family has spiraled into homelessness; and Claudia, who was arrested when she called for help when her husband was attacking her and who is fighting to stay in the United States with her three young children.

In Norristown, Pa., Pilar Molina has made the pain of deportations personal for United Methodists, including Bishop Peggy Johnson who led a prayer vigil at Haws Avenue United Methodist Church April 6.

In January, Molina's husband, Israel Resendiz Hernandez, 34, a construction contractor, was arrested by immigration agents in Norristown. Imprisoned in a county jail, he faces deportation on charges of repeatedly crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, including a trip for his father's funeral last fall.

Molina was at the prayer vigils and told those gathered she remembered how hard it was to grow up without a father. Her two daughters, Caitlin, 9, and Ariana, 3, are asking their mother each day when their father will come home, she said.

Continued on Page 7

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>2</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>3</i> Youth Group Gathering
<i>4</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Communion Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Church Council 12:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service 4:00 p.m.—Flute Recital in Sanctuary	<i>5</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>6</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 11 a.m.—Golf Outing at Rock Hill 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>7</i> 6:30 p.m.—ESL	<i>8</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>9</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Finance 12:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service	<i>12</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>13</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>14</i> 6:30 p.m.—ESL	<i>15</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>16</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>17</i> Youth Group Gathering
<i>18</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 12:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service	<i>19</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>20</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>21</i> No ESL	<i>22</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>23</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Trustees 12:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service	<i>26</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>27</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>28</i> No ESL	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>31</i>

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Our BUMS Softball Team Schedule

- Monday 5/5 SMS @Bums Home Game
- Tuesday 5/6 FPW @Bums Home Game
- Monday 5/12 Bums @IMP @ Islip Terrace Early Learning Center E. Islip
- Tuesday 5/13 NVC @Bums Home Game
- Tuesday 5/27 SMS @ Bums Home Game
- Monday 6/2 Bums @ CSS Coed Park Stony Brook
- Tuesday 6/3 All Star Game @ 12 Pines Medford
- Monday 6/9 IMP @ Bums Home Game
- Tuesday 6/10 Bums @ TRL Timberline Park Brentwood
- Monday 6/16 LER @Bums Home Game
- Monday 6/23 Bums @DHS @ Singal Hill Elementary Dix Hills (make up)
- Monday 7/1 CBC @ Bums Home Game
- Monday 7/7 Bums @ EBI William Floyd Middle School Moriches
- Tuesday 7/8 Bums @ GGF Oregon Middle School Medford

Check Your Price Tag

Wish you could sing like her or dance like that? Wonder what you would look like if only you had long legs or straight hair? Think there is too much around your middle or too little elsewhere?

Think about it, how do we even consider that we are too fat or too thin unless we have someone to compare ourself to? And how would we know if we were rich or poor unless we were using what someone else had as a standard. The problem with constantly comparing ourselves and competing with others is we either come out on top (and we feel superior and prideful) or we find ourselves sinking to the bottom of the heap.

If you went into a store and tried to pick out the thing that was the most valuable, the thing that had the greatest value, chances are you would go around looking at the price tags until you found the one with the highest price written on it. The price we pay for something determines how much value we place on it. So, if you want to know your value there's no need to look around at other people. If you want to know your value, you just need to check your price tag.

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. You have been bought with a price.

-1 Corinthians 6:20

Did you catch that? You have already been bought and you have already been paid for. And the price paid for you was the life of God's son, Jesus. If you had been worth any less

than that do you think he would have paid the ultimate price for you? And if God considers you to be worth this much, who are you to start discounting yourself?

Your price tag does not say 'marked down.' It does not say 'damaged; sell as is.' It does not say 'great bargain.' Look closely, your price tag says this, 'Bought with a price. Loved by God. Exchanged for the life of his son, and now occupied as his temple.' You are unique and beautiful, fearfully and wonderfully made. You were lost to sin, but you were bought back at a premium. That's the greatest price ever paid. When God created you, he did so in his image. That's something you can't say about anything else in all of creation. He even breathed his breath into you, his spirit, showing you that there is a place in you that he will always want to occupy. God alone wants to be the one to fill you up.

God loves you, not because you were the "most" of anything or the "best" of anything, simply because you are his. You are his child. You are his daughter. All those little quirks about you, he designed those. All those flaws. He knows about them. He loves you in spite of that. All of the magnificence that he put within you he admires and smiles about that every day. Check your price tag. It's not worth comparing yourself to the gifts in others and ignoring the gifts that he place in you.

—Jessica LaGrone, UMNS

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Deportations from Page 5

Molina met a group of United Methodists, including Los Angeles Area Bishop Minerva Carcaño, in Washington on Presidents Day, Feb. 17, when the United Methodist Board of Church and Society and other groups led a prayerful protest in front of the White House. Many participants, including Carcaño and Iowa Area Bishop Julius Trimble, were arrested. Chicago Area Bishop Sally Dyck and more United Methodists were arrested at a protest in that city on March 27.

"These are just a few of almost two million stories that illustrate the tragic consequences of the policy of mass deportations. While the Administration claims that deportations are only being carried out against those deemed 'threats to society,' these stories clearly show that is not the case. There are many, many more stories as well," said Bill Mefford, executive with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

Mefford is collecting stories from churches that participated in the weekend of action to present to President Obama.

—Kathy L. Gilbert, UMNS



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Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
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Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
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While the Pastor is Away

Most of you know that Rev Sanchez is a chaplain with the US National Guard. In order to fulfill his training obligation with the Guard, he will be at Fort Jackson in South Carolina from May 18 through Aug. 16. While he is away, we will continue to worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.

On the first Sunday in June and July, Rev. Arturo Main will celebrate communion with us and lead us in worship. On non communion Sundays, our lay speakers and worship assistants will lead worship. We have eight speakers who are honored to be able to use their spiritual gifts in this way.

We are also pleased to have Rev. Tom Goodhue, head of the LI Council of Churches, present the sermon on June 15th.

May 11 will be Pastor's last Sunday with us before he leaves and he will conduct communion on that day. He will return to us on Aug. 17 and celebrate communion with us that day.

For pastoral emergencies during the period when Rev Sanchez is away, Rev. Main will be available. He can be reached at (718) 730-3408. For non-pastoral questions, problems, concerns, you can contact me at 475-1792.

The pastor hopes to be able to stay in touch periodically with the congregation through Skype or video teleconferencing. Not certain, but he will try. We will miss him while he's away and I'm certain he will miss us. Please keep him in your prayers and his family as well. Ivette, Jelixa, and Abdiel will need our support and love while Pastor fulfills his obligation to our country.

—Barbara Becker

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations, give them courage to face the perils which beset them, and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Beliefnet.com

