



# TheLink



## The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2012

Edited By George Hoag

### What Is a Steward?

Are you confused about stewardship and what is expected of you as chairperson of stewardship in your congregation? Most people assume stewardship is all about money. Is this assumption correct? Let's trace its origin. "Steward" (from Olde English styge-ward) referred to the keeper (ward) of the pig sty. The styge-ward did not own the pigs but was a responsible farm hand with oversight of the entire hog farming operation. The extended farm family (including all of the hired help) had enough to eat and a decent livelihood if the styge-ward did his job well. "Steward" (translated from the Greek New Testament word oikonomos, which shares the root for economy), referred to the servant responsible for purchasing supplies, overseeing the other hired hands, keeping the books, and administering the operation of the household. Literally, oikonomos means "manager of the household." More than once, Jesus told a story that began, "There was a steward who . . ." From both biblical and agrarian images, then, we are all stewards of God's household, which first is the whole of creation, not just money. Humankind was placed in the midst of God's good creation and given the role to represent God as the true owner of the whole of creation (see Genesis

### Worship In October

**Oct. 7**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Let Them Come*, Genesis 2:18-24, Mark 10:2-16.

**Oct. 14**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, "Extravagant Generosity Series" *True Treasure*, Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Timothy 6:17-19.

**Oct. 21**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, "Extravagant Generosity Series" *And They Will Know That We Are Christians*, Job 38:1-7, John 13: 34-35.

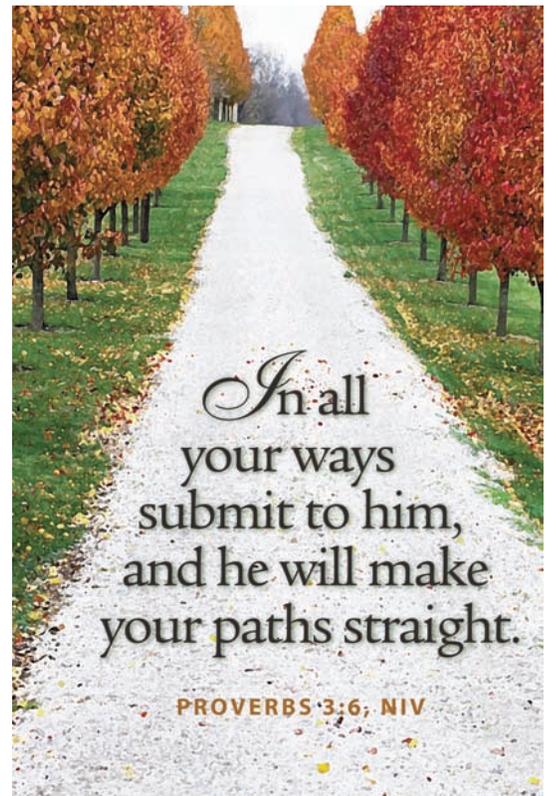
**Oct. 28**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, "Extravagant Generosity Series" *What Are You Looking For?*, Psalm 34:1-8, Matthew 6:33.

**Nov. 4**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, "Extravagant Generosity Series" *The Time Is Now*, Psalm 146, John 3:16-17.

1:28; 2:15). This is the background and foundation for all stewardship action, whether we administer our own household, the church, the community, the nation, or the world. There are ecological, economic, and geopolitical implications to God's call to be stewards of all that God has created. What we do through our congregations is in the context of the divine reign over all creation, which Jesus described as "the kingdom of God."

Furthermore, the way of life we define as Christian stewardship is rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus. When Jesus taught that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, he called us to confront seriously the reality of God. God demands justice and abundantly shares compassion, mercy, love, and forgiveness to all.

**Continued on Page 7**



# Circle of Concern

## *For Guidance:*

Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Rose Conti, Lisa Prince, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Rachel Nason, Carlos Alvarado, Tim, Paul, Christine, Carol Moore, Raquel Miller, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell, Linda, Stephen Martin, Purificato Family, Ashley Lauren, Linda Morgan, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, Alicia Evans, Debbie Holand, Jemma, Barbara, Katie, Anna, Suzanne, Amanda Garcia, Doris May, Margaret, Lois, Laurie, Bonnie Smith, Debbie Turpeau, Julio, Lisa, Paul Walkawitz, Debbie, Tom Kerr, Laura Jacobs, Sarah and Justin Tann for a healthy pregnancy and birth of their first child; Barbara Jehle, Elise Gavrock, Steve, June Barile, Luke Gonzalez, Debbie Reading, for comfort and healing for Raymond and Randy Prince on the passing of Tina Prince, the Elam Family, Paula Rowe, Jennifer Femister and family, Joann Henn, Steve McCarthy, Bruce Kirschner., Elaine and family, Lillian Aparicio, Marge Prince, Stephen, Lisa, Ralphie Lettieri Jr. and family, Rich Azzopardi, Carolyn Seus, Rosemary Swartz, Joe Tucker, Ralph Letterri, Kevin Steiger, Melanie Schneider, Connie Castogua and Beth E. Glash.

## *These Who are Hospitalized:*

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Debbie Fiore, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Todd Skwirz, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Pat Q. Bayne, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, Maureen Grippi, Debbie Turpeau, Rich Kaufold, Madeline Grosso, Michael T. Battaglia, Andrew Wittman, Jr., Al Monteverdi, Daniel Bravata.

## *These at Home:*

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick, Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, the Moultre Family, Kim Farrel's daughter, June Barile's parents, Muriel Vilar, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother,) Catherine Interrante, Arthur Rice, Glenn Hollins, Beth Widera, Conrad Queen, Marie Cirillo, Bob Ruggiero, Pat Addison, Eugene Smith,

Don Wilson, Linda Werner, Amelia Devery (Gail) shut-in at home, Pat Q. Bayne, Cheryl Keeley, the McCarthy family, Mike Battaglia, Al Montverdi, Janet Monteverdi, Clifford Meachcum, Mia Maher, Paula Rowe and Albert Eid.

## *These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:*

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

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

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

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

**Peter Moor** in Veteran's Home at Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY



**Make your Prayer Request  
on line at  
PatchogueUMC.Org**

The deadline for contributions to the November edition of **TheLink** is October 12. Please e-mail your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

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

## Stewardship

Fall is one of the busiest times in our church life. We return to Sunday School and Bible Study. Programs and fund raisers are planned and implemented. We are energized and look forward to a new season.

Before we learn about what is happening, I would like to comment on stewardship. I began writing this column to acknowledge those hard workers among us who give so much of their time and talents to our church. At the time many never got credit for their efforts. Committee chairpersons did not always mention them in reports or at meetings. By acknowledging them, the congregation learned of what was going on and could take pride in their church. It also encouraged others to give of their time and talents.

When the column began, we seemed to be holding our own financially. Your tithes and offerings were a private matter between you and God. The topic of tithes and offerings were left to the traditional November Stewardship Campaign. That has changed due to the hard economic times and skyrocketing costs. When there were shortfalls, we have had to take money from our endowments to pay steadily rising insurance bills, among others.

Those endowments are now practically gone and we do not have that cushion to fall back upon. We must all seriously consider tithing or provide more sacrificial offerings if we want this church to continue to do God's work.

Each Sunday morning we read in unison the "Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self". Some of us just read

the words. We should all think about the message each week. Reflect on part of the September 9 message: "Your gift of life eternal prompts us to be grateful in our prayers and generous in our giving. Our hearts abound in thankfulness and our lives reflect your goodness. Use your powers to instill in us the need to give. Amen." In these hard times support has diminished. Many just cannot give more, but have volunteered their time and talents. Others can and need to tithe. Tithing is usually giving 10% of your income, or a sacrificial pledge that is fulfilling to you. All that we are and have is a gift from God. A portion of our good fortune should be shared through tithing or sacrificial pledging. We need this church to continue to answer His call "to go and be God's hands and voice." Please pray upon and return a larger portion of God's gift so we can continue His work.

We will be having our first Silent Auction and dinner in Wesley Hall on Friday Oct. 19 at 7 PM. June Barile is chairing the event.

The doors will open at 6:30 PM so people can begin bidding on items. A sit down dinner will be provided. We will need quality items for the auction. Please bring those items to church and give them to June on Sundays. If you need to have them picked up, please call the office, 475-0381, and ask Chris to set up a pick up date.

Our membership Secretary, Carolyn Willis, and Lola Schwartz have been trying to contact absent members. Our membership rolls are finally being brought up to date. Carolyn and Lola have mailed out more than 400 letters and have received 100 replies, most of them affirmative. We would appreciate

that those who receive these letters answer them by using the self-addressed stamped envelope included. Please respond if you want to remain on our rolls. Thank you Carolyn and Lola for your hard work.

Carolyn has also spearheaded the collection of recyclables at church. Besides properly disposing of recyclables, she collects deposit bottles and cans. To date she has made \$90 that was donated to the UMW for missions and outreach. She would like you to join her in collecting cans and bottles so that the money can be donated to the church. You can donate the deposit money directly or bring the bottles and cans in plastic garbage bags to church. Thank you.

Many others at church collect items. These connect us as a church family. Ernest Ipke collects used glasses to bring to his homeland, Nigeria. If you have glasses you can donate, please give them to Ernest directly or place them in the marked box in the north vestibule. Help others to see better. Betty Rice collects plastic water bottle caps for Clare Masem, who gives them to a local elementary school with a program that provides supplies for them.

The MYF is reorganizing. We would like to thank Carla Gibson for serving as senior youth leader for four years. Carla is stepping down after initiating many great programs. We all loved the "Adopt a Grandparent" program at Christmas. The Smile Train mission, many fun trips and activities endeared her to our youth. Thank you for not just your service, but your love for the kids.

Raquel Miller is the leader of our junior MYF. They will wait until

*Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!*

October to begin planning activities. It will give the kids a chance to adjust to school. The kids will resume the Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang mission in October.

The building south of the church on South Ocean Ave. has been undergoing a facelift. Ariel Garay of Bay Shore is the contractor. He asked permission of the owner, James Slattery, to power wash the adjoining sidewalk and paint the cyclone fence. Ariel and his crew trimmed back some of the church bushes to make his job look good. On his own, he also power washed the outside steps for the church. A heart felt thanks to Ariel and his crew. If you are considering hiring a painting contractor, please consider Ariel. You can reach him at 631-522-9457 for a free estimate.

We would like to thank Barry Burrell for repairing the light in our sign facing South Ocean Avenue. Thanks to Lenny Pearson for her assistance in installing steps on the louvers in the belfry with me.

The Davies family would like to thank those good stewards who help Ted to see his bride, Esther, of almost seventy years. Esther is at the Brookhaven Health Care Facility on Gazzola Drive, one block east of the Hospital off Route 101.

Barbara Becker, Barry Burrell, Trudy and Tom Mansfield, Bob Prince and I have been getting these two youngsters together each week. More volunteers would be appreciated. Call Bob Prince at 758-1917 if you can help.

May God be with you and bless you.

—**David Hollowell**

## Opening Day For The Season

You thought I was talking about NFL football, right? Uh-uh. It's opening day for a most critical year of UMC Patchogue Stewardship. "Coach Kathie" Wells is ready to roll out the playbook, and GM Ernesto "I love you all" Sanchez has lined up a winning bunch of players. The finest team of Stewards this side of Nassau County! Nope, not the Stewardship Committee—YOUR Stewardship. PRAYER Stewardship. VISION Stewardship. Everyone who walks through the doors here at the South Ocean Spirit Stadium is on the team, and we need your help. And believe it or not, we're not leading off with the Touchdown Money Hail Mary (at least, not yet!) - we're going for something far more important, and we need it right now, and going forward: your Vision.

It's capitalized, and it's coupled with Prayer. We need every one of you to be in Prayer for discernment: what is YOUR Vision of our little slice of heaven at the corner of S. Ocean and Church Streets? What difference do you see us making in the community, or on Long Island? And what are YOU—not some Committee, not the Other Guy, YOU—going to do to make that Vision come to life, and create/enhance others' lives, that will make Jesus smile as he walks alongside you? It's real simple: just Pray. Search your Heart. Ask Him for guidance. See UMC Patchogue as it can be, hand in hand with the Holy Spirit. Pray for Vision.

A hundred years ago, Napoleon Hill (the forerunner of ALL the motivational speakers today) proclaimed: "Whatever you can conceive and believe, you can achieve!". Even better, I like what Sean Connery said in his last moments in *The Untouchables*: "What are you prepared to do?"

The ball was just kicked off. It's coming to you. Show time.

—**Yours in Christ, Tom Bracken**



**Our church softball team won its first championship this year! The Bayport-Patchogue Souls were the winners of Division C of the Eastern Suffolk Christian League. The team even went on to defeat the Division B champs. Great job guys and thanks to all the fans!**

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>2</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>3</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>4</i> 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>5</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School	<i>8</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>9</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>12</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance/Trustees Confirmation Class	<i>15</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>16</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>17</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>18</i> 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>19</i> 7:00 p.m.—Silent Auction & Pasta Dinner 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>20</i> 9:30 a.m.—UMW
<i>21</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School	<i>22</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>23</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>24</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>25</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>26</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>27</i> 9:30 a.m.—Charge Conference at Bayport
<i>28</i> 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Church Council	<i>29</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>30</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>31</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study			

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FAMILY PRACTICE

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**Chinese Auction**  
Sponsored by  
Cat Placement and Rescue  
**Thursday Oct. 4**  
Doors open 6 PM | Raffle at 7:30 PM  
**Knights of Columbus**  
**41 Horseblock Rd. Centereach 11720**  
for information call Janis at 631-326-7042

*Editor's note: Janis LeBlanc is at First Choice Mailing in Bohemia which addresses and mails our **Link** for us every month for free. She is grateful for our donations support of her Cat Placement and Rescue and we are grateful to her. You can reach her at work at 631-750-6492 ext 206.*



**WE CAN  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

**Save The Date: Salvation Army Band,  
In Our Sanctuary, Nov. 3.**

## What Is A Steward? (From Page 1)

Jesus also called us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Self-acceptance and acceptance of others are interwoven—they cannot be pulled apart without destroying the whole fabric. There is no love of neighbor without love of oneself. Our actions are rooted in God's love for us in Jesus Christ. (See 1 John 4, especially vv. 9-10.) When we know that we are loved, we are free to share that love with others. We cannot give what we have not received. Stewardship starts with one's relationship to God. The good steward is one whose actions are in alignment with God (the Creator and "owner" of all that the steward manages). Thus, the beginning point for you as the chairperson of stewardship in your congregation is to listen to the call of God. Through prayer and discernment, seek alignment with God's hopes for your church, the community where your church is located, and for the whole world. Read the Scriptures. Meditate. Listen to what God is saying to you through your reading, through the world around you, through times of worship, and especially through your church's relationship with "the least of these" (see Matthew 25:31-46).

### We Are All Stewards

We are all stewards of God's Kingdom—every one of us. We may be effective stewards or not-so-effective stewards, but nevertheless, we are stewards all the time. It is not an option. The setting for us to live as stewards is our daily lives in this real world. Stewardship is "in the world." It is our daily human response to what God has done and is doing as well as our response to what we anticipate God will do in this world. The time for being a steward is now. Does this sound like the way the word stewardship is used in your congregation?

—Rev. Sanchez

## Adult Study

All are welcome to join our adult studies. Please contact the church office for more information or to sign up at 475-0770 or patchogueumc@yahoo.com.

Our Sunday morning study meets from 9:00 to 9:45 AM. in the Conference Room off of the Cloud Room. We will be discussing a different question each week from the book *Banned Questions about Jesus*. Some of the questions in the book include:

● Why should I believe that Jesus was resurrected? What does it mean to the Christian faith if he wasn't resurrected? ● Was Jesus a pacifist? ● Was Jesus ever sick? If so, why not just heal himself?

Participants do not need to purchase the book and it is not necessary to attend the study each week, so please feel free to join the group whenever you are able. The Wednesday night adult group will be finishing up a study of Adam Hamilton's book *Why: Making Sense of God's Will* and will then be viewing the DVD *What Would Jesus Buy*, after taking the evening of October 10th off. You are welcome to join us at any time. Debbie Kolacki leads this study.

Barbara Becker is leading a Friday morning study based on the book John Wesley: *Holiness of Heart and Life*. The study began September 14 and will meet on Fridays at 11 AM in the church.

—Debbie Kolacki

## Welcoming Visitors

We all want to welcome new visitors. Our brand promise – "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors." – is our commitment to maintain a welcoming lifestyle in our churches. However, there is a fine line between being friendly and solicitous and invading newcomers' space. Here are some ways to reach out and some dos and don'ts when welcoming visitors.

**DON'T** assume a curry chicken casserole or fudge brownies will delight everyone.

**DO** be aware that many people have different food preferences and even food allergies. Even offerings that sound neutral, like homemade bread, may be a bad idea due to gluten allergies. Think outside the box; consider taking a mug with your church's logo on it—stuffed with teabags or a special coffee packet and an issue of *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide. Another great offering may be a refrigerator magnet with your church's phone number, address, Facebook address, website, and Twitter account.

**DON'T** forget practical manners. They never go out of style.

**DO** ask visitors how they prefer to receive information about events and news. Encourage them to follow your Twitter feed and like your Facebook page. Ask them if they like to get text announcements.

**DON'T** take it personally if a family visits for weeks or even months without joining. You don't know what is happening in their lives and their faith journey, so don't be pushy.

**DO** understand that part of being a

**Continued on Page 8**

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister  
Christine Saas, Office Assistant  
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-363-2163

**Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.org**

Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM  
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM  
Supervised Nursery during worship  
Hearing assistance provided

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We would like to reduce our mailings. If you can use an e-mail copy (it's in color that way), instead of mailed, please call the office.

## Visitors (From Page 7)

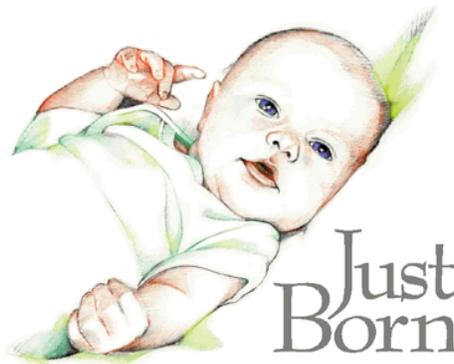
welcoming congregation means being patient. Be friendly and helpful. Let visitors know they are welcome at the level of involvement where they are most comfortable.

**DO** announce in church that your congregation likes to reach out to visitors. Ask them to note on the registration pad if they prefer phone calls to home visits or email to snail mail. Reassure visitors from the pulpit that you do not intend to drop by unannounced.

**DON'T** put all the responsibility on the shoulders of the head greeter.

**DO** enlist your congregants' help in making visitors feel welcome through handshakes, smiles and light conversation in the pew.

—UM News Service



**Congratulations to Catherine and Robert Weber on the recent birth of their daughter, Penny, and to Suzanne and Robert Dodge on the birth of their son, Robert.**

If you haven't been getting e-mail messages from us, it means we don't have your address. Please send your e-mail info to patchogueumc@yahoo.com or call the church office.

## THIS MONTH'S birthdays

- Oct. 2 Edison Chae  
Jessenia Deabreu
- Oct. 4 Marc Freiwirth
- Oct. 5 Jasmine Zimmerman
- Oct. 9 Brittney Gross
- Oct. 10 Dylan Ficurilli
- Oct. 13 Ronell Purificato
- Oct. 13 Skyla Shaw  
Eric Wertz
- Oct. 17 Jarid Butler
- Oct. 20 Jake O'Brien  
Zakkariyya Rowe
- Oct. 27 Amanda Schiavone
- Oct. 29 Justin Martin
- Oct. 31 Kyle Kaminsky