



TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2014

Edited By George Hoag

The Word As Well As Spirit



Welcome to this autumn season! I hope you have all had a chance to rest and recuperate in different ways over the summer. God sure blessed us with amazing

weather!

During this next season we really hope that some of the changes of the past year will come to be part of our culture—continuing to learn to live in community, loving each other well and living out of the covenant promises given to us by God—let us live out our faith boldly.

Over the summer I have been reflecting on so many things. First, Patchogue UMC has been known in the past as being a SPIRIT FILLED church—it has been our trademark.

The issue is that if we only have the Spirit we will eventually ‘blow up’, as John Wimber once put it. We need a firm foundation for us as a community of individuals to welcome the presence of God. Even with the Spirit we will see relationships break down, power struggles, division, gossip, criticism, all

Continued on Page 2

Worship In October

Oct. 5—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Knowing God*, Communion, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14,

Oct. 12—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *The Lord Is Near*, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9.

Oct. 19—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *No Easy Answers*, Isaiah 45:1-7, Matthew 22:15-22. Blessing of The Animals. Service in Wesley Hall.

Oct. 26—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Where Is Your Treasure?*, Proverbs 28:25-26, Matthew 6:19-21.



Tremble,
O EARTH,
AT THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD ...

PSALM 114:7, NRSV

Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

For the McCormack and Planas Families to cope with the death of Kristen.

For Guidance and Healing:

Janice, Louis D'Amico and family, Colleen Smith, Kathy, Bruce Clamser, Robin, Bridget and Jesse Fitzgerald, Gloria and Louis D'Amico, Charleen and family, Sheila Dreaper, Renie Meadowcroft, Terisa John, Robin, Kevin, Jasmine Arettines, James Penney, Paul Rodrigas, Corey, Keith Girouard, Laura and Louis Diamond, Chris Jackson, Esperanza Candelario, Ben Capua, Kathy Mellor, Keith Girouard, Dianna Peterra and family, Babette Bishop, Patricia Puk, Roberta Pilsen, Rich, Leah, Joann Egan, Quigley Family, Elysse Klayes step-father, Tracy Iarocci, the McCoun Family, George Birrell, Conrad Queen, Sharon Hutchinson, Entress Family, Burrell family, Dianna Peterson, Nancy Hascall, Raymond Diamond Sr., Thomas DeCrescenzo who has joined the Marines, Dinna Peterson, Elaine Short, Robin Corradino, Lynn Kane, Jennifer, Jim E, Molly Alencastre, Rebekah Bender's brother and family, Niels Sorensen, Barbara Ackermann, George Sprague, Maddy and Tom, Guy Vitale, Lynn Kane, Jennifer, Charles William Peterson, Sherry Vadrs' husband, Michele Boyer. Marjorie, Charles Bates, Linda, Jasmine Psaris, Geoff, Thomas, Joan Poucel, Vernon Gatewood, Diane Keller, Cheryl Keeley.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Keyana White, Wayne Williams, Bob Venator, Jack, Dennis Gambler, Gabby, Jessica Morendo de Ortega, Molly Alencastre, Louise Kirschner, Nettie White.

These at Home:

Wilfredo Franco, Sandy Burrell, Chester Gibson, Grace Cruger, John Puk, Harold, Loretta Harrigan, Frank Whalen, Justin Miller, Laurie Gaber, Sylvai, Ron Bose, Selma Graham, Lorraine Brenner, Helen, Ernest Ikpe, Flo Carde, Marge Kirkup, Ellie Goyco.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Affinity Skilled Living, 305 Locust Ave. Oakdale, NY.

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

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Holbrook, NY.

Al Eid in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Pray for our church and its future direction.

Make your Prayer Request on line at PatchogueUMC.Org

Word and Spirit (from Page 1)

of which I am sure we also recognize that has been part of the life of Patchogue UMC.

I have felt in my heart that God longs for us to retain our identity as a Spirit Filled and loving church but to add to it the fullness that comes from knowing, loving and living out the word of God; we are to become a Word and Spirit Filled church.

The word gives us a substance, it helps us to be established, to be obedient, and so be reinvigorated! 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says that all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.'

I would love us to continue to be known as a place where the Spirit moves but also as a place where the community of Patchogue UMC lives out the word of God—forgiving those who hurt us, being generous, laying our lives down for one another, thinking of others better than ourselves, being holy as He is holy.

So for the moment let us live up to what we have already conquered, but let us press into the word of God until it becomes who we are. Let us share God's many blessings that we are so filled with and pass it on—freely we've received, let's freely give! Can I get an Amen?

May God Bless you all!

—Pastor Ernesto Sanchez

The deadline for contributions to the November edition of **TheLink** is October 24. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

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

LESSONS ALONG

the Way

May God's peace be with you!

As I write this, I'm hovering on the edge of taking a major (and somewhat daunting) step in my Christian journey. Since this step involves a great deal of self-examination, prayer, and commitment, I went to one of my favorite and most dependable spiritual advisors here at UMC Patchogue, for some enlightenment and guidance. My advisor told me many things, but one that sort of jumped out at me was "get rid of everything that stands between you and God". Many of you know me pretty well; this is not a "pick one of the two or three issues you have, and get cracking" task thing for me. I have a veritable smorgasbord of thoughts and behaviors from which to choose. So I started with one of the toughest ones: I'm a bad driver.

My driving record certainly doesn't reflect this. Since the mid '70s, I've had exactly one moving violation (in Colorado, 2005), and exactly one accident where I was at fault (see this past April's Link). No, the problem is around a certain aspect of my driving which involves control, judging, and ego. Let's narrow it down even further: it involves a particular off-ramp after I cross a bridge into Queens. A psychologist might tell me that these behaviors and emotions spring from certain events in my very-young childhood, and he or she might even be right – but that was then and this is now, and the more I try to walk in the Way, the less these excuses seem to carry any weight.

The "what" and the "where" are not

material, but the fact that it sprang out of nearly being driven into a guard rail in late-2007 is. Since that time—and we're talking almost seven YEARS now—I had made sure that no one could put me in that position again, and no one has. Not once. Ever. I even started thinking of myself as the undisputed king of that quarter-mile stretch, kind of like the "king of the ring" in boxing. Did I mention control, judging, and ego? After the above-mentioned enlightenment and guidance, other adjectives came to mind, such as infantile, dangerous, inconsiderate, and stultifying.

The next Friday, as I entered the ten-mile stretch (to continue the boxing analogy, this is the "undercard") leading to my weekly show of driving panache, I actually questioned whether I could let it go. And I knew, and admitted, that I couldn't – there was just too much adrenaline, self-gratification and victory to be had. (Did I mention control, judging, and ego?) And as soon as I admitted it, then I did what I should have done all along: I asked God for help. And I suppose that's the whole point of the story, and of our faith – if we can only admit that we need help, and if we ask for God's help, then wonderful things can happen.

And so, as I entered that quarter-mile, where I was "king of the ring" for almost seven years, I was preparing to throw the title. Instead of weighing relative speeds, probabilities, and approach vectors, I was asking God – no, I was pleading with God – for patience, for humility, for grace, and for at least a glimpse of maturity. And my loving God, whom I have come to realize will always answer prayers to be

of better service to those around me, helped me take my foot off the accelerator, release the tension in my shoulders, take a deep breath, and surrender my self-imposed crown. Sometimes "surrender" is good. My crown was gone.

Have I been perfect in my driving since? Hardly. But the edge is gone, and I'm slightly more forgiving, somewhat more courteous, and even a smidgen less judgmental of those around me on the road. And I spend a lot more time in prayer behind the wheel. Every Day. Most of it with my eyes open. (That last one was a joke.) Still, what does all this have to do with removing some pretty big things still standing between God and me? Simple: the phrase popped into my head about five minutes after I surrendered. I don't know of anything I could say that would be more important than what I'm about to say, if, as I do, you want to follow and serve Jesus: It's hard for me to be the king, if I want to serve the King.

I'll continue to ask the Holy Spirit for help with my driving, and I still have that veritable smorgasbord of "standing-betweens" in front of me, beckoning me to self-indulgence. So what's next for Tom on the Way? Forgiveness of co-workers? Shutting my mouth instead of striving for the last word? I know—procrastination!

Well, maybe that one can wait...

—Tom Bracken

Tom will be spending fewer hours behind the wheel. He has changed his job from Connecticut to Riverhead.

birthdays

Oct. 2 Edison Chae

Oct. 29 Anthony Davis

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Treasure

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace”. Numbers 6:24-26.

Reflect for a moment on the simplicity of Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. Ahhh, but like so many things that Jesus said, is it really simple? Or perhaps, is thinking about it and saying it nowhere near as challenging as putting it into practice?

Your Stewardship team has once again prepared a presentation for our yearly adventure – and really, isn’t everything we do in and for our Lord an adventure? From the opening Sunday of October 26th through the final one on November 16th, Pastor Tito and other members of our church family will be sharing about, and ultimately challenging all of us to look openly and honestly at, the subject of – you guessed it, Treasure.

As in the last several years, the sermons will ask us to ponder several questions regarding our personal day-to-day interaction with, and life in service to, our Lord Jesus Christ. Subjects such as where your treasure is, what your treasure is, and whose treasure it might really be, will probably be part of the discussions, as well as that sticky little issue of serving two masters. And who knows—there might even be a little aside involving that famous soliloquy of Hamlet: “To worry or not to worry / that is the question”. Or something like that.

And please don’t forget, as we continue to stress every year: gifts take many forms. If your voice is beautiful, give back that gift to your brothers and

sisters by singing in the choir. If you love to work with food, be there for our Wesley dinners. If you speak two languages, greet others at the door on Sundays and make them feel welcome. And if you can put off purchasing that Maserati for just one more year... Well, you get the idea!

Look at the four weeks of this Stewardship adventure as a time to renew your spiritual batteries; as a time to be thankful for the gifts you’ve been given; and as a time to reflect on the understated message of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with a few loaves and fishes. And regarding that last point, ask yourself this question: did Jesus do that to show that He could do it, or to show that we could do it? Everybody turn to your neighbor and say “Hmmm...”

—Your Stewardship Committee

Suffer The Children

What is it about human beings that we find it so hard to see past the differences of skin color, religion, culture, nationality, gender and language so that we can recognize the essential sameness of all human beings?

If a visitor from a far off galaxy should drop in on a United Nations General Assembly session, and use some advanced scanning gadget, they would immediately know that everyone there, regardless of visible or internal differences, was a member of the species *Homo Sapiens Sapiens*—human beings. Our species.

Some 85,000 years ago, give or take several thousands, after having developed over millennia in Africa, the ancestors of modern humans (us) began to migrate out of the African continent, eventually spreading over

the face of the globe, changing and adapting to the widely varying climates, environments, and topography of the earth.

One change worth noting stems from the need for vitamin D that all humans share. The best source of Vitamin D is the sun. If you lived in an area of intense sunshine like Africa, you would need more pigment to protect your skin from the sun's rays than if you lived in northern Europe or Scandinavia, where the sun's rays were weaker and daylight shorter. Consequently, humans in those areas over time lost pigmentation, so their skin could absorb maximum Vitamin D from the sun. So skin color is a natural adaptation of the human species to physical circumstances.

Understanding that, we should be embarrassed to acknowledge how often skin color is used as the basis for discrimination or for designating some humans as superior to others.

Almost all humans (there are always exceptions), want the same things—to be loved and to love, to raise a family that they can provide with good food, shelter and clothing, to obtain medical care when they are ill and to have access to education for their children. Basically, to live in peace. Sadly for too many people in this world, that's a dream, a hope that might someday be realized.

Which brings us to the thousands of undocumented children, mostly from Central America, that have come to this country over the last year. Do we ask ourselves why they would be sent on such a perilous journey just to take a chance they would be reunited with a

Continued on Page 7

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 7:00 p.m.— Bonhoeffer Study	<i>2</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>3</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 10 a.m.—World Communion Sunday 10 a.m.—Worship/ Kids/Breakfast Club	<i>6</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>7</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>8</i> 7:00 p.m.— Bonhoeffer Study	<i>9</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>10</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>11</i> 9 a.m.—3 p.m.— Emmaus
<i>12</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Kids/Breakfast Club 11:30 a.m.— Finance 2-6:30 p.m.— Chrysalis	<i>13</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>14</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>15</i> 7:00 p.m.— Bonhoeffer Study	<i>16</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>17</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>18</i> Live Auction
<i>19</i> 10 a.m.—Blessing of The Animals Worship (Wesley Hall)/Kids/Breakfast Club	<i>20</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>21</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>22</i> 7:00 p.m.— Bonhoeffer Study	<i>23</i> 5 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>24</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>25</i> 9 a.m.—3 p.m.— Emmaus
<i>26</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Kids/Breakfast Club 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	<i>27</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>28</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>31</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	

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“Even if friends did always call you a saint, I still have to look it up.”

New In The Office

Chris Saas, our treasured Administrative Assistant of so many years, left us in September to take a full time job near to her home. We wish her well.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair Barbara Becker and Pastor Sanchez interviewed many applicants and narrowed it down to two. The full committee, after interviewing both, selected Meghan Vanderhoof.

Meghan is a Bellport resident, recently moved with her Coast Guard husband from Key West, Florida. He is now stationed in Moriches and plans to retire there.

Meghan will be working in the office from 9 to 2 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Stop in and say hello.

Children (From Page 5)

relative or someone who could take them in? To risk being taken into custody by border agents and warehoused in some bare bones facility that we probably wouldn't want our pets to languish in? No, it isn't so they could get on welfare, since without proper documents you cannot get welfare. It is because the conditions, both economically and crime-wise are so bad in countries like Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador that parents see sending the children away as their only hope. Just as Moses mother did so many centuries ago, when she put him in that reed basket and sent him down the Nile, hoping someone would rescue and save him.

What do you suppose Jesus would do in this situation? When he said "suffer for the little children to come onto me.." he did not say, 'as long as they are from this country and look and believe as I do.' No, Jesus would have gathered these children to him, would have fed them, housed them, made sure they were cared for, would have loved them. Can we do any less?

This is a humanitarian situation that transcends political ideology, economic policy, national interests.

This is a human issue.

—**Barbara Becker**

Celebrating The Life of Bishop McLee

From the opening notes of "Ave Maria" to the ending refrain of "Draw the Circle Wide," the funeral service for Bishop Martin D. McLee at The Riverside Church reflected the life and ministry passions of this beloved leader. The mix of music, dance, and word at the September 15 service

might even have qualified for McLee's definition of "engaging worship" — something he encouraged in all the congregations under his leadership.

McLee, the resident bishop of the New York Area, was remembered time and again for his complete commitment to the Gospel and his advocacy for the marginalized. He died unexpectedly on September 6, just four days before his 59th birthday. McLee had taken a six-month leave of absence beginning July 1, to receive treatment for an undisclosed illness. The news of his death was met with profound disbelief and an outpouring of adoration not only from the New York Conference, but also from many across the globe.

Thousands of mourners—including dozens of active and retired bishops and more than 400 robed clergypersons—poured into Riverside Church to pay homage to a man whose great love of Christ was a beacon for many. As the strains of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" filled the church, the casket bearing the body of McLee was carried down the center aisle, with a group of children, young adults and mothers with babies close behind. His family, the bishops, the New York cabinet and lay leaders, and other ecumenical religious leaders then followed.

Bishop Marcus Matthews, president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction's College of Bishops, addressed the feelings of shock and love when he opened the service by acknowledging that he too had a "broken heart" and that our corporate pain came in "bidding too early a farewell" to our beloved colleague, and to the man that the family lovingly called, "Martin Duke."

Matthews noted that while it was difficult to rejoice, the gathering could take comfort in the love and grace of God that McLee had shared with each one. Matthews had consecrated McLee as a bishop just two years ago in July 2012. Matthews offered greetings in place of interim Bishop Neil Irons, who was reported to be too ill to attend.

The congregation rose to sing, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," after which Renata Smith, conference lay leader and Episcopacy Committee member, led the responsive reading of Psalm 23.

Retired Bishop Alfred Johnson, who is also lead pastor at the Church of the Village, offered a pastoral prayer noting that out of all the calls in McLee's life—music, law and education—he had answered the "sweet, tortuous call to ordained ministry.

"He lived boldly, bravely and bountifully" into the ministry, Johnson said. "And throughout his physical journey, his grace never wasted away . . . his storm has passed over, hallelujah.

—**Joanne S. Utley**

Jane Middleton Is Interim Bishop

Retired Bishop Jane Allen Middleton will be assigned as interim bishop for the New York Annual Conference from Jan. 1, 2015, through Aug. 31, 2016. The Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops, has approved the assignment recommended by the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops. Retired Bishop Neil Irons will continue to serve as interim until Dec. 31. Irons has been serving as interim Bishop since July.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Meghan Vanderhoof, Administrative Assistant
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-475-3132

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

Address Service Requested



Live Auction/ International Pot Luck Supper



On Saturday, Oct. 18, at 6 PM, we will hold our second annual live auction and international pot luck supper.

Last year, in addition to raising much needed funds and sharing amazing food, we had a lot of fun.

Last year's auction items ranged from beautiful gift baskets and gift certificates to home cooked meals and painting services and many others. We hope to have as interesting an array of items as last year.

Of course, we need your help in securing good quality items as well as prepared dishes for the pot luck. Letters and receipt forms for the auction and forms for the food to be donated are available in the office or speak to me.

We are charging \$10 for the dinner, \$5 for children under 12. Of course, there is no entrance fee for the auction. Thank you.

—**Barbara Becker**

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