

# The Link



Since 1791

## The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

September 2009

Edited By George Hoag

### Get The Fall Spirit

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Now, it's September. Personally, I like the month of September. It is mainly because I can see our sisters and brothers in Christ whom I missed a lot during the summer coming back to church and fill our church with a new spirit. And, September is the month in which another new term of Sunday School begins. Kids are coming back from the summer vacation, summer camps, trips, etc. and rejoining a new season of Sunday School classes.

The ministry of education for kids is one of the most important ministries in the church. And, we have to make efforts to help our kids grow in God's love and grace as much as we can. It is because they are the present and the future of our church. Their healthy growth in faith means our church's healthy growth and thus, educating them in God's love and grace must be one of the most significant elements for building our church as the body of Jesus Christ. I would like to encourage all of you to give a special attention to our Sunday School and their activities, and to pray for them. We also have to pray for the teachers

**Continued on Page 2**

### Worship In September

**Sept. 6**—(Communion Sunday; 14th Sunday After Pentecost); James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37; "Faith with Action", (Rev. In Koo Chung).

**Sept. 13**—(15th Sunday After Pentecost); Proverbs 1:20-33; Mark 8:27-38; "Who do you say that I am?", (Rev. In Koo Chung).

**Sept. 20**—(16th Sunday After Pentecost); Proverbs 31:10-31; Mark 9:30-37; "Who is the Greatest?", (Rev. In Koo Chung).

**Sept. 27**—(17th Sunday After Pentecost); Psalm 124; Mark 9:38-50; "Inclusive Christians", (Rev. In Koo Chung)



*"If my people who are called by my name  
humble themselves, pray, seek my face,  
and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will ... forgive their sin ...."*

*2 Chronicles 7:14, NRSV*

*Relating People to Jesus Christ and God's Word*

# Circle of Concern

## *For Guidance:*

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, Ray Gallo, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Christy Wood, Lois Wood, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Pat, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene and the Americo Family.

## *These Who are Hospitalized:*

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Baby Joseph, Bertha Smith, Shelly Granger and Frances Miller and Bob Tenaglia.

## *These at Home:*

Betty Hansley, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Eric & Pat Carlson, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Frank Westerland, John, Mike Welsh, Hazel Freely, Dave McKendrick, Brian Lentini, Paul Rice, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, Rosemarie, John Krulger, Philip Crandall and Shelly Granger.

## *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 Brunnemer 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; Joan Simpson, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, 101 Elm Street, Sayville, NY 11782.

*Pray for our church and her future directions!*

**Please contact the Church Office if someone should be removed or added.**

## **Ushers! Ushers! Ushers!**

We are putting together a schedule of ushers for worship from September through the end of December. A training be will given on September 27th, after worship. Ushering is a pleasant and relatively stress-free (!) way to assist in worship. The duties are light and the opportunity to greet everyone entering the church really is a joy. If you're interested and or unsure, please see me.

— **Barbara Becker**

## **Fall Sprit (from Page 1)**

who educate, nurture and take care of the kids. One more time, I would like to invite the whole congregation to pray for our kids, teachers and our educational ministries.

In September, we are also going to resume the Bible Study sessions for adults. We are planning to meet at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. I encourage all members and friends of our church to come on Wednesdays for our Bible Study meeting. Our study will focus on a historical introduction to the New Testament. I would like to have an opportunity to explore together the New Testament from a historical perspective for enriching our understanding and deepening our faith. I am also looking forward to having a great time for fellowship with one another in our fall Bible study sessions. Come and join us!

I always give thanks for God's presence in our church with a wonderful blessing and a caring heart.

May God's love and peace be with all of you!

In Christ,

—**Pastor In Koo Chung**



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

## Taking Chance of a Lifetime for Universal Health Care

A UMNS Commentary

By David Briggs\*

There are many faces in the debate over health care we will never see: the mentally ill cast out onto the street to die, the child victims of third-world infant mortality rates in U.S. cities, the unemployed men and women who wait too long for cancer diagnoses.

Tracy Smith is one of those people, one I will never forget. In his late 40s, Smith would sit in his car with heart pain while his two beloved young children played in a Seattle park without him.

Lacking insurance, Smith suffered rather than endure the indignity of facing a doctor whose first test would be the financial one of how he would be able to pay for treatment. He finally made it to the hospital in time to be treated for near-fatal atrial fibrillation.

But he still did not have the insurance or the \$50,000 to pay for the heart transplant he needed. His only hope was to wait for Medicare to approve the funds for the operation. He died waiting.

Many Americans are still waiting for a health care system that is not dependent on one's ability to pay. In 1993, not long after Smith died, the hopes of many who consider health care a human right faded away when an ill-conceived effort for universal health care failed in Congress.

Now, for the first time in a generation, there is real hope that the United States will make health care a right for all its people.

President Obama is leading a national dialogue on universal health care, attempting to transcend the political differences and economic self-interest that sidetracked earlier efforts.

No one doubts that over the next few months, lobbyists for doctors, health care companies, insurers and drug manufactures will make sure their voices are heard, often placing their own financial well-being over the common good. Never has it been more important for religious voices to be heard.

In an effort to contribute to the dialogue, United Methodist News Service invited several church members, from one of the nation's most prominent health leaders to doctors and nurses on the front lines, to offer their reflections on how to heal our nation's health care system.

Each of them reminds us to look beyond ourselves to recognize the suffering of others under the current health care system.

### Best and worst of times

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. surgeon general, asks Americans to consider, "We are the richest country in the world and the only industrialized country that does not provide health care for its entire people."

Irma Clark, a Chicago nurse, talks about the pain experienced by millions even as the health care debate moves forward. "There is a lot of pressure when you have to decide whether you should buy a loaf of bread or fill your prescription for blood pressure medicine, and you need both," she writes.

Dr. Wayne Riley, president of United Methodist-related Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., notes while it may be the best of times in terms of medical advancements, "It is the worst of times because lack of access has resulted in health disparities that compromise the quality of life for those who are disenfranchised, underrepresented, poor and-or uneducated."

New ideas, new approaches are a moral imperative, they say.

### Comments

Dr. Dan Bell, who co-founded a free medical clinic in Eureka Springs, Ark., proposes the creation of a Federal Dental Corps because multiple medical problems are spawned by bad teeth, and dental care is harder to get than medical care.

Dr. Scott Morris, a family physician and executive director of the Church Health Center in Memphis, Tenn., says the health care system must lose its love affair with bigger and better technology and direct resources toward developing general practitioners.

The Rev. Linda Walling, executive director of Faithful Reform in Health Care, remembers that not everyone headed for the exits when the Clinton plan failed in the early '90s. The United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ never gave up, she said.

The memory of Tracy Smith and millions of others on the side of the road of the nation's health care system will not let us.

**\*Briggs is news editor of United Methodist News Service.**

## Stewardship

With the cool rainy Spring and early Summer, the lawn and shrubs have grown a lot. We would like to thank Barry Bidell and his son-in-law Marvin Jennings for cutting the Church lawn and pruning the shrubs. With Alive After Five<sup>®</sup>, every week has brought a lot of people who see a well kept Church. In early August Steve Rice cut the parsonage and Church lawns, while Ray Henson (our Sexton) was on vacation.



The old 5000 gallon buried fuel oil tank was removed in early June.

The heavy machinery used broke a portion of the sidewalk leading to the office. Barry Bidell encouraged his friend Benny Genetempo, a former mason, to help us replace it. Benny spoke to his employer, Sears Redimix, and the Church will receive the concrete as a gift. Thank you both for your fidelity to our Lord.

Bob Prince and Steve Rice are planning a Church wide Yard Sale for October 10. Bob will be having foot surgery and Steve, knee surgery around that time. Thereby we will need a lot of volunteers to help these two hard working fellows. Last year we made over \$1,200! Come join us, make money for the Church, and have some fun too. The boys would like you to look through your stuff and find some items to sell. Bob's phone number is 518-1917 and Steve 445-7977. If you have items and need to have them picked up, please call either of them. Kevin Leahy has volunteered to work

with them to pick up items.

With September we will be working hard to rebuild our Sunday School. Our children are the future of this Church. Superintendent Barbara Schroeder and her dedicated teachers will be encouraging all our children to return to the fold.

Treasurer, Kathie Wells, and Recording Secretary, Tom Bracken, have labored through the lean summer months. With September, we welcome everyone back and hope that you would please bring your pledges up to date. We need all our counters to return to their scheduled Sundays. If you can assist with the counting, please let Tom know by contacting the office.

One of our angels, Jim Miller, is Mr. Food Pantry. Every Tuesday from 9-12 noon, Jim dispenses your food donations and those of local supermarkets. Please remember to bring your food donations every Sunday.

He needs large brown paper shopping bags. If you have any, please bring them to Church. Jim also maintains and updates the Church sign on South Ocean Avenue. Security is another hat that Jim has assumed. Each Sunday he checks and locks all the doors securing the Church after services.

Another tireless angel is Geri Sheridan. Besides participating in most of the Church's committees, Geri is a Trustee. Every Sunday a bouquet of flowers graces our altar. This is thanks to your donations to the Altar Flower Fund, coordinated by Geri. Please use the envelopes in your Pledge book to honor God, while bringing recognition to loved ones. Praise be to God.

—Dave Hollowell

## Youth Group

The UMC of Patchogue will be starting a youth group program in September. The youth program will be for teen's 9th – 12th grade. We will focus on bible study, mission work, and monthly social outings! Registration will be Sept. 13. Hope to see you there.

—Carla Fiore-Gibson

## Nursery

We are trying to start a nursery program for the babies of UMC of Patchogue. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the nursery. If you have a baby and are interested in a nursery program, or if you are interested in volunteering to help out please see me.

—Carla Fiore-Gibson

## Welcome Back-Ice Cream Sunday

Sunday School starts Sept. 13. On that day we would be doing registration in the Cloud Room. All children must register. Thanks to all our teachers: Elizabeth Biederman, Pre-K, Debbie and Don Kolacki, Grades 1-2, Denise Whelen, 3-4th & 5th grades, Kathy Loris, 6-9th.

—Barbara Schroeder,  
Superintendent of Sunday School

**Healing Prayer Service,  
Sunday, September 20th at  
7pm.**

*Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!*

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship	<i>7</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>8</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 8:30 a.m.— 3:00p.m. —Defensive Driving Course 1:30 p.m.—Coffee House Movie: “Fireproof”
<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School and Registration	<i>14</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>15</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>16</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee  Confirmation Class begins 7:00 p.m.—Healing Service	<i>21</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>22</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>23</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 9:30 a.m.—UMW
<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School	<i>28</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>29</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>30</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study			

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The story takes place at the Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. It concerns a firefighter named Caleb whose wife of seven years, Catherine wants a divorce. Caleb is ready to give up on the marriage altogether, but his father, John gives him a book called **The Love Dare** and challenges him to follow its steps before throwing in the towel.

*\*Parental Discretion is advised.*

**Saturday Afternoon**

**September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Doors open at: 1:30PM**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Movie & Lively Spiritual  
Discussion Led By June Barile**

For more information: (631)475-0381

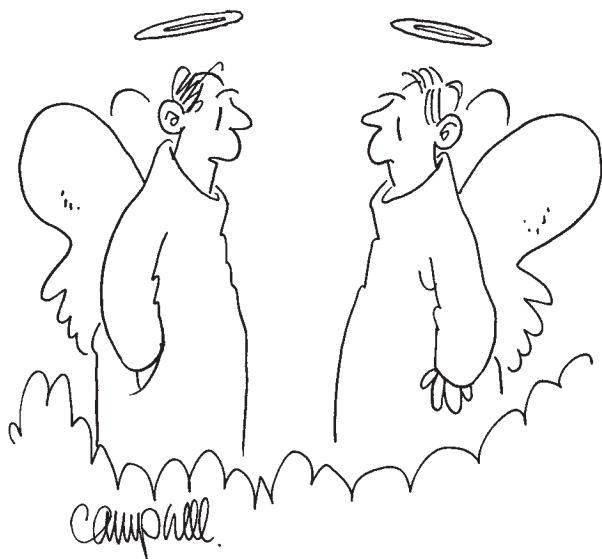
Or email: coffeehouse@optonline.net

**UMW**

The September meeting of the United Methodist Women will be held on Saturday, 9/26 at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Important things to talk about. Light breakfast. Wonderful women.

—Barbara Becker



"I was reading about eternity on the Internet and accidentally hit 'enter.'"

## UMC.Org Reviews: *My Sister's Keeper*

Production company: New Line Cinema; Director: Nick Cassavetes; Cast: Cameron Diaz, Alec Baldwin, Abigail Breslin, Jason Patric, Thomas Dekker, Sofia Vassilieva, Joan Cusack; Rating: PG-13 for mature thematic content, some disturbing images, sensuality, language and brief teen drinking.

By Gregg Tubbs

(UMC.org)— Move over Old Yeller. Step aside Terms of Endearment. There's a new top tear-jerker in town, and it's a doozie. *My Sister's Keeper* will wring your tear ducts dry, but it does it honestly through a heart-wrenching scenario that taps into deep and universal emotions. In a story filled with joy and heartbreak, love and sacrifice, a loving, distraught family is caught between caring for one child who is dying of cancer and respecting the wishes of the other child who is her made-to-order medical donor. The family must confront the ethical conundrum of whether one sister should live only to sustain the other and whether she has a right to demand control over her own body.

Based on the bestselling book from Jodi Picoult, "*My Sister's Keeper*" explores the emotional cyclone of a family dealing with the extreme stress of having a child with a serious illness. Along the way, the film also delves into the meaning of loyalty, sacrifice, quality of life, and free will. The story is deceptively simple. As a young girl, Kate Fitzgerald (Sofia Vassilieva) is diagnosed with leukemia and will die unless a perfect genetic donor match can be found to supply bone marrow. The complication, and emotional

power, comes from her parent's solution.

To save their daughter, Sara and Brian Fitzgerald (Cameron Diaz and Jason Patric) take a bold, but morally dicey step. Using very specific genetic selection and in-vitro fertilization, they conceive a child who will be a genetic match for Kate. Anna (Abigail Breslin) becomes a lifeline for Kate, providing her first donations as an infant. Despite their odd, symbiotic relationship, the sisters share a deep bond, and in a touching role reversal, the younger sister heals and protects the older. Yet, Anna never holds this debt over Kate, and Kate never takes her self-sacrificing younger sister for granted.

Kate's battle with cancer lasts for years, going through cycles of treatment, remission and recurrence. The sisters endure countless medical procedures and hospitalizations, some of which are physically harmful to Anna. Yet somehow, the Fitzgeralds remain a close-knit and loving family, savoring the good times and pulling together during the frequent hard times. Sara gives up her career as an attorney to dedicate herself fully to Kate's care. However, as she becomes increasingly single-minded in her devotion, she does so at the expense of the rest of the family, particularly her son Jesse (Evan Ellingson) who does not have Kate's special needs or Anna's special purpose.

When Kate's kidneys begin to fail, Anna, now 11 years old, refuses to donate one of hers and hires a lawyer (Alec Baldwin) to seek "medical emancipation" from the will of her parents. As Kate's health continues to fail and the court date looms, the Fitzgeralds become a family divided. The legal issue of Anna's right to decide what she

will and will not do with her body opens a moral and ethical minefield for the family. They are forced to confront difficult and painful questions. Was it morally wrong to engineer one child to save the other? At what point has Anna given enough? Is it fair for her life and health to be compromised by giving up a kidney to buy Kate more time—years or perhaps only months?

For Sara, in particular, the only choice is to do whatever it takes to keep Kate alive. Had she been a suitable donor for Kate, she would no doubt have taken her devotion to the limit. But at what point does her desire to save her child become obsession? And how much must the rest of the family endure? All this has the makings of a great clash of ideas, but as directed by Nick Cassavetes (*The Notebook*), *My Sister's Keeper* concentrates more on a battle of honest, but painful emotions. The family is forced to confront an ancient and troubling question: should one child be favored over another? Have Sara and Brian ever really considered what was best for Anna? Even more intriguing, have they ignored what Kate really wants?

In the end, *My Sister's Keeper* is a film about letting go of a loved one, grieving and moving on. A hard subject, to be sure, but one that is confronted with honesty and with all its emotional power intact. The effect is cathartic, delivering a flood of forgiveness, deepened understanding, and affirmation of life. Finally, the film reminds us that those we love never really leave us, and that we must cherish every moment we have together. After seeing *My Sister's Keeper*, it's easy to understand the phrase "a good cry."

*Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!*



**The United Methodist Church of  
Patchogue**  
10 Church Street  
Patchogue, NY 11772

# The Link

Rev. In Koo Chung, Pastoral Minister  
Christine Saas, Office Assistant  
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-363-2163

[www.gbgm-umc.org/patchogue](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/patchogue)

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Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.  
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**September**

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- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 9/1 Cynthia Levine  | 9/21 Ryan Murphy         |
| 9/3 Meghan Bomba    | 9/22 Emily Gross         |
| Luke Rogers         | 9/25 Emily Meier         |
| 9/8 Catherine Fudal | Haley Abate              |
| Kyle Blum           | 8/21 Kristyn Brewer      |
| Jayson MacDonald    | 8/24 Samantha DelGuidice |
| 9/9 Kristina Malito | Sarah Turner             |
| 9/11 Amy Hawkins    | Sophia Eucar Nacion      |
| Jessie Scala        | 8/25 Jacob Miller        |
| 9/13 Dan Balson     | 8/31 Kaitlin Ficurilli   |
| Lucas Strong        |                          |
| Julianna Synch      |                          |
| 9/15 Daniel Stone   |                          |
| 9/17 Cailin Rogers  |                          |
| 9/18 Emily Siems    |                          |
| Marcus Smith        |                          |

## Defensive Driving

A Six hour Defensive Driving Course is scheduled at UMC of Patchogue for Saturday, Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. The cost will be \$45. per person. Registration will be done by Driver Education, and they can be reached at 631-360-9720, Mon.-Fri., 9a.m.-4p.m.

WHATEVER IS *true*  
WHATEVER IS *honorable*  
WHATEVER IS *just*  
WHATEVER IS *pure*...  
IF THERE IS ANYTHING  
*worthy of praise*  
THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.  
PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NRSV

The deadline for the October edition of **The Link** is September 18. Please e-mail your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).