

Celebrating  
220 Years  
In 2011

# TheLink

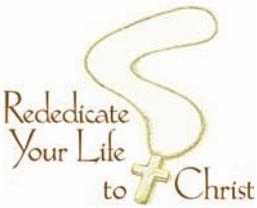


## The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

September 2011

Edited By George Hoag

### Church Commitment Part II



So here we are again Patchogue UMC Family. Hope you've been having a great summer.

Now let's get back to our series on "Church Commitment". This time lets start by reflecting on Church membership and it's importance to our ongoing SPIRITUAL GROWTH in Christ. This is a great piece of information which I have gathered and edited thanks to New Testament Christian. We will look at four reasons why it's so crucial and beneficial to be involved and belong to a local Church.

**I. Membership in a Local Church Establishes Your Commitment to Christ and the Local Church.**

Consistently in the gospels, Jesus Christ calls you to a commitment to Himself and to His will for your life. Followers of Christ are marked by their commitment to Christ.

Luke 9:23: If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

**Swimming Against the Cultural Current!**

**Continued on Page 4**

### Worship In September

**Sept. 4**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Resolving Conflict*, Matthew 18:15-20, Ezekiel 33:7-9.

**Sept. 11**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Not How Often but How Well We Forgive*, Matthew 18:21-35, Genesis 50:15-21.

**Sept. 18**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *The Irony of Imprisonment*, Philippians 1:21-30, Issiah 55:6-9.

**Sept. 25**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Before Us*, Matthew 21:23-32, Ezekiel 18:25-28.

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

Join us at the church Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 PM starting Sept. 28. We will be using the study materials from *The Greatest Story: Bible Introduction, Multidenominational Edition*, which is a 16-session overview of Genesis through Revelation that introduces the key people, places, and events of scripture. Participants are invited to explore where they fit in the greatest story and how the greatest story fits in their lives. We will study the nine sessions that cover the Old Testament in the fall and the seven sessions that cover the New Testament starting in January.

All are welcome to join this study. The cost for a participant book for all 16 sessions is \$15. If you would like to register or have questions, please contact the church office or Debbie Kolacki at 363-6499 or [debiek88@yahoo.com](mailto:debiek88@yahoo.com). Please register by Sept.14 so that study materials can be ordered.

Sow for yourselves  
righteousness,  
reap the fruit  
of unfailing  
love ...

Hosea 10:12, NIV



# Circle of Concern

## ***For Bereavement:***

For the Family and Friends of Bryon Sheffield, Prince and Titus Family's Aunt Kitty, Deon Louis, Donald DeLaVergne, Annie Leddin, Calixtus Ita.

***Joy:*** A son for Chrissy and Ed Leddin.

## ***For Guidance:***

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Holly Nelson, Lisa Prince, the family of Alex Pearson, he is in a nursing home, he is the father-in-law of Lenny Pearson, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice), Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen, Walt Stawecki's mother, Theresa Rubano, Sofia and her family, Megan Prince, Dayne Davis, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans, Dean and family, Jean Eid, Rachel Nason, all those who have lost their jobs, Eileen Paduano, Carlos Alvarado, for the Nations of Africa, Tim and Paul, Christine, Mr. Bralla, Pete and Carol Moore, prayers of comfort for police and fireman and all those who risk their lives to make ours safe and better, Glenn Hollins, Raquel Miller, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Amanda Lee Domale's brothers one is in Afghanistan and other is leaving for Iraq, Bonnie Abbott's upcoming operation, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Emmaus Teams and Pilgrims, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell and Linda, Stephen Martin, Rosalie Rosen, Lori Purificato, Ashley Lauren and Jose Garcia. For those in our church community who are fighting against cancer, Ernest Ikpe's brother, Ihanga, safe journey back to S. Africa, Linda Morgan. Prayers of comfort and strength for the People of Norway, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends.

## ***These Who are Hospitalized:***

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Peter Moor (Kathie Loris' father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Sue Buck, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Mr. Tallon, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Jim Pew, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Grace Richardson (Dianne Adone's mother,) Pat, Randy Rogers, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Nancy Rogers, Krystan Lenhard, Glenn Hollins, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Glenn Schwartz, Todd Skwirz, Jim Miller, Carol Kirschner's sister, Linda, Mike Welsh and Joyce Ferrante, Caroline Moore.

## ***These at Home:***

Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Mike Welsh, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph, Jytte &

Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, John Casale, Mr. O'Keefe, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, former Patchogue Village Justice, Donald Howie, John Layton, the Moultrre Family, William Loris Sr., Dave Hollowell, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Marilyn Franco, Muriel Vilar, Janet Higby, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother), Jim Miller, Catherine Interrante, Glen Adone, Geri Sheridan, Arthur Rice.

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

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

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

Kitty Brunner in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934.

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

Nancy Rogers in I.C.F. , S. #1, wing C, 283 Route 25A, Shoreham, NY 11786.

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

*Pray for our church and her future directions!*

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.

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

## Stewardship

It has been a long hot summer. We hope that everyone has had a chance to recharge and will come back to church full of energy and ready to do God's work. This fall will be a busy time in our church.

Some good news is that Jim Miller is coming back. After a tough couple of months of recovery, Jim is doing much better, and has returned to church.

While he was on the mend, Jean soldiered on in his place managing the food pantry. She was not alone for many people pitched in to help. Jean's daughter Jeanna Moritz and her two granddaughters Hannah & Rebekah came from Southampton to give a helping hand on several Tuesdays. Janet Alt, Barbara Becker, Lenny Pearson, Walt Stawecki and I came in to help, too. Thanks to all who gave of themselves to keep this needed outreach available to our community.

Pastor Sanchez had a busy working summer. He is preparing an application for a grant to replace our 100 year old boiler. Based on bids from contractors I obtained last year, we hope to secure a grant from the Park Avenue United Methodist Church in New York City. Pastor also obtained a contractor to re-roof the parsonage this summer. Part of the parsonage roof and the garage roof were over 50 years old and in dire shape. Pastor obtained the bids and oversaw the work. This can be demanding. I know because last summer I oversaw the roof work at the church, the boiler repair, and installation of a section of fence at the parsonage. Thank you Pastor.

In my last LINK article I neglected

to inform you of Steve Rice's role in the Golf Outing. He made the initial contact with Calverton Links. His negotiations with them gave us a plan that maximized our income while providing more perks to the golfers than any previous Outing. Thank you Steve for all you do for our church and I apologize for not thanking you in the last LINK.

Our first fund raiser will be the all church Yard Sale. This will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, with a rain date of Sept. 24. Bob Prince and Steve Rice will co-chair the event. They will be picking up items that can not be brought to the sale on Saturday morning. Please check your attic and basement for nice items that we can sell at the yard sale and save for the Chinese Auction. We should be set up at the parsonage by 9:30 AM, so please bring your items by 9:00 AM so they can be priced. If you can stay and help we would appreciate it. Coffee and donuts will be available and Pastor Sanchez will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. For more information or to schedule a pick up please call the office 475-0381, Steve Rice 445-7977 or Dave Hollowell 475-5339 (evenings).

Last June, Carol and Hugo Berntsson gave our church a lot of items for our yard sale. Several truck and car loads of items were taken to the church and parsonage. The dedicated crew included Lenny Pearson, Eleanor & Bob Prince, Bob Rogers, Steve, Courtney & Brian Shadbolt, Amy and Jay Vining and myself.

We appreciate your efforts.

The Chinese Auction is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 27. A minimum of

250 items are needed. The chair-woman, June Barile, has a new extremely demanding job that does not leave her enough time in the week to properly prepare for it but several people have offered to help and more are needed. The revenue is an important part of our budget. If you would like to chip in, we need you! . It will be held in our Wesley Hall..

Bill Loris donates the proceeds from his church affiliated tax preparation service. This money comes during the summer when most needed. Please consider having Bill do your taxes this January. Half the proceeds go to our church.

The summer has been busy for Lenny Pearson. Her responsibilities with the Wesley Dinners have grown. She assisted Jean Miller and straightened up Wesley Hall. Lenny provided a substantial gift to our church in the summer when donations are down. Her gift is part of the Salvation Army Band concert scheduled for 7 PM on Oct.22 in our sanctuary. This event will continue our outreach to the community. Lenny has worked hard to bring this great band to our church. Please put the concert on your calendar and plan on being there.

The classic play, Dickens CHRISTMAS CAROL will be on December 10th at our church. Larry Boddy, who brought us the great dinner theater, A FAMILY TO DIE FOR, will be the producer. Barbara Becker has volunteered to be our director. See her arti-

**Continued on Page 4**

The deadline for contributions to the October edition of **TheLINK** is September 9. Please e-mail your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

*Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!*

## Commitment (from Page 1)

Nevertheless, the culture in which you live opposes the idea of commitment. The tension that you face is that your culture calls for convenience (only do what you happen to “feel” like at the moment). And your culture calls for consumerism (which leads to a selfish focus—“what’s in it for me?” instead of a serving focus—“what can I do?”). This has led to many people thinking that they can simply “attend” a church and not get involved with commitment and ministry. Others simply like to follow whatever happens to be “hot” at the given time. Instead of deepening their roots spiritually, this approach encourages shallow lives and superficial relationships. If you are going to show your commitment to Christ, then you need to see that church membership is a vital step in establishing that commitment to Christ and to His goals for your life.

Acts 2:41-42 gives to us the proper pattern for church membership: "Those who accepted his messages were baptized...They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

### What Is The Biblical Pattern?

Salvation was followed by baptism, which was followed by commitment to membership in the Church. The truth is, Jesus never asked people to go to church. Jesus Christ asked people to join a family, a community, a body. That family is the local church. Church is not a weekly requirement of an hour or so. Rather, God has designed the church family to be an essential part of your daily growth.

### II. Membership in a Local Church

Places You Under the Proper Authority, God's Authority.

You are to be under the authority that God has set up for your own protection.

Hebrews 13:17: Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men/women who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

How can you obey this command of Scripture if you are not committed to a local church? It is clear that this verse assumes that you have a committed relationship to a local, Biblical church. The leaders are given to you to keep watch over you. This protection and care that you need cannot be administered to the level of maximum benefit if there is no commitment.

You are also to be under the authority that God has set up for ministry affirmation.

Although this is regrettably abused so often today, every Christian ministry should operate under the direction of a local church. In Acts 13:1-3, the early church commissioned the first official missionaries. Paul and Barnabas came back to that church (Acts 14:26-27) and gave an accounting of their ministry. This is done for the doctrinal and personal protection of both the people who are asked to support the ministry and the people who are involved in the ministry.

Well, Patchogue UMC family be sure to get our next edition of The Link for the continuation this important series on Church Commitment. Blessings to All!

—Pastor Tito

## Stewardship (from Page 3)

cle regarding casting calls (September 18 & 25) in this LINK.

We are a great church that has been going through tough times. The cost of oil and an unexpected severe winter have wreaked havoc on the budget. No one wants to keep asking you for money. It is crucial to find the funds to keep our church operating.

Some have repeated the Biblical promise that God will provide. He has, through grants, challenge campaigns and many fund raisers. We must persevere, for as James states in 1:23-25, “a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” We beseech you to join us and continue the legacy our ancestors have entrusted to us. Money problems are not new to our church, it has been a struggle since the founding in 1791. The congregation in the past loved this church as we do, and sacrificed their time, talents and tithes so we can worship in a beautiful sanctuary.

We ask you to continue that legacy by serving our church with not just your tithes, but your time and talents. We need you to support our programs. Your talents are crucial to developing exciting new programs to support this church. Join hands with us so our grandchildren and future generations worship here thanks to your fidelity.

May God bless and keep you.

—David Hollowell



# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/  <i>Counters: Linda Werner and Dave Hollowell</i>	<i>5</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>6</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee  <i>Counters: Lenny Pear- son and Carol Kirshner</i>	<i>12</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	<i>17</i> 9:30 a.m.—UMW 9:00 a.m.— 3:30 p.m.—Yard Sale, Parsonage
<i>18</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School  <i>Counters: Carolyn Willis Falvey and Kate Weber</i>	<i>19</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner	<i>23</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	<i>24</i> 8:00 a.m.— Defensive Driving
<i>25</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School  <i>Counters: Brenda Klingel and Joanne Shadbolt</i>	<i>26</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>28</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	

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**Oct. 18—Charge Conference, 7:00 PM**

**Oct. 22—Hear the Salvation Army's  
Hempstead Citadel Staff Band  
and Chorus**

**In Our Sanctuary, 7:00 PM  
\$5 suggested donation**

**What's Cool In Sunday School**

We are setting up another fun-filled Sunday School year. Registration for the Nursery, Sunday School, and both Youth Groups will begin on September 11, 2011. Raquel Miller will teach a workshop that will honor all who died on that terrible day. I will be available to sign your child up before, during, and after church.

I am in dire need of Sunday School teachers. To follow Safe Sanctuary guidelines I need to have two teachers for each classroom. In the past I could fulfill this requirement by checking in with each teacher during class time. I am now so short handed I may have to teach a class, which means I can't fulfill the requirements of Safe Sanctuary. If you are at all interested in being a Sunday School teacher, please contact the church office and I will get in contact with you.

Thank you very much

—Elizabeth Biederman, Superintendent



"The teacher has noticed that I'm no Solomon."

## Promote Civil Debate On Health Care

*“Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught ... and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd.”*  
— Matthew 9:35-37.

I wonder if that’s how Jesus sees us Americans these days as we contemplate and discuss health care reform: diseased and in need of health care, bruising and hurting each other even as we discuss health care, confused as we try to figure out what the proposed health care bills really say, and potentially aimless as we move forward unless we have greater clarity and civility.

Jesus healed people; that was what he did when he saw people in need. As United Methodists, we have a long history of providing health care and healing for people, especially the poor. John Wesley started and supported a health care clinic for the poor in England. It was ultimately unsustainable and unable to continue. In the United States, United Methodists and other faith communities opened hospitals, orphanages and elder-care facilities. United Methodists support health care facilities in other countries, especially Africa, and provide health measures such as anti-malaria nets, eye and dental clinics, and more.

When pondering hot-button topics, United Methodists often ask: “What does The United Methodist Church have to say about this?” Our Social Principles in The Book of Discipline 2008 state in part: “Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril. ... Health care is best funded

through the government’s ability to tax each person equitably and directly fund the provider entities. ... We believe it is a governmental responsibility to provide all citizens with health care.”

### Education is critical

Whether we agree with our Social Principles, we United Methodists need to provide opportunities to learn, discuss and identify what’s most important to us in this health care coverage reform debate. Like at election times, a partisan approach is not appropriate. But there are a lot of “confused and aimless” people in our communities who might appreciate a venue for civil and clear discourse for this critical concern.

I also believe that if we don’t reform health care coverage, we will find ourselves in another economic meltdown in the near future. We need to make changes. The question is: What changes should be made and how will they affect the present and the future for each of us when it comes to health care as well as our country’s economic stability?

Since there are many reform possibilities on the table, it’s hard to know how changes will affect our churches and clergy. We are all aware of how rapidly health care costs are rising. The expense has made it nearly impossible for some churches to support a full-time clergy leader. How will these changes affect our congregations? Our clergy? What will happen to congregations and clergy if we don’t make any changes?

### What you can do

What can we do as United Methodists? I hope that you will think about how you might reach out to those in your congregation and community who might be “confused and aimless” about health care coverage reform. I have a few suggestions:

Host an educational forum in your community (maybe with other churches) that

gives a variety of perspectives and an overall view and comparison of the various bills that will face Congress when it reconvenes in September. If such a forum was offered near me, I’d attend it! Your elected officials should be able to provide you with some resources for this as well as other community leaders.

Prioritize your core values—based on your faith—that help you decide the best approach to health care coverage reform. Core values about this issue might include, but not be limited to things such as a public insurance option, who should pay for coverage for more people and of course the proposal’s financial sustainability. Then listen and look at what the bills provide.

Vary your sources of information to ask better questions and avoid misinformation and rumor.

Engage in civil debate about health care coverage reform. I understand the emotional aspect of the discussion because whatever the outcome, we’re all going to live with it for a long time. But if people are shouting so loud that they can’t be understood or answered, it won’t help the discussion and it certainly won’t bring clarity. I would hope Christians would provide exemplary leadership for open, honest and civil discussion on such an emotional and critical decision, for it affects every one of us.

Let your congressperson know what you think is best for you and our country.

Yes, I believe that we as Christians and United Methodists should give leadership to all (including ourselves) who are “confused and aimless” about this important issue. It may be an opportune time to witness to our spiritual maturity (through our civil discourse) and provide a need-based outreach to our communities.

—**Bishop Sally Dyck, UMNS**

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Christine Saas, Office Assistant  
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## SEPTEMBER

### Scrooge Comes To Patchogue **UMW**

In early December, our church will be presenting a full scale production of Dicken's, A Christmas Carol. This should be huge fun, but clearly a lot of work, and needing participation by the congregation on many levels. One of the first steps will be a casting call, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 18 & 25. Children are needed, as well as adults. So dust off your acting skills or if you're inclined to costume design, set construction, prop making, all these skills are needed. More specifics will be forthcoming. Check with me or the church office for details. Larry Boddy, who produced the enjoyable Mystery Dinner Theater fundraiser we held last spring, will be again be at the helm. Yours truly will be assisting. We hope this will be a successful fundraiser.

—**Barbara Becker**

Our September meeting will be held on Sat, Sept. 17 at 9:30 AM. In addition to planning for the Christmas Fair, we will discuss and vote on using only Fair Exchange coffee for coffee hour. This is coffee that is produced by small cooperatives of farmers and sold and distributed by these cooperatives. More profit goes back to the grower than with coffee sold by huge corporations. Also, we will finalize plans for a recycling plan for the church. Come, share your ideas, enjoy the company of intelligent, caring women.

**UMW Retreat:** You may still be able to secure a spot at our annual retreat at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island, Sept. 30–Oct. 2. There are a few places left. See me, Joan Curtis, or Lorraine Brenner.

—**Barbara Becker**



9/1 Cynthia Levine  
9/3 Luke Rogers  
9/8 Catherine Fudal  
Kyle Blum  
9/9 Kristina Malito

**Birthdays  
This Month**  
9/11 Amy Hawkins  
Jessie Scala  
9/13 Lucas Strong  
Juliana Lynch  
9/15 Daniel Stone  
9/17 Cailin Rogers  
9/18 Emily Siems  
Marcus Smith  
9/21 Ryan Murphy  
9/22 Emily Gross  
9/25 Emily Meier  
Haley Abate

