



TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

September 2014

Edited By George Hoag

Kids Club and Breakfast Club Starts September 7



It's time for a new year and we'll be starting our Kids Club and Breakfast Club programs on Sunday, September 7.

These were called

Sunday school in the past but the name change indicates the different emphasis we have for this year, to help kids and youth to live their faith and have a relationship with God in a loving atmosphere, rather than focusing on "book learning" about their religion.

Our Kids Club will include those in preschool through 5th grade and will begin with a time of worship, song, and fun together. Then the children will break into smaller groups based on their ages for more activities. The Breakfast Club will include our youth in grades 6 through 12.

Our Club supervisors are Debbie Kolacki and Raquel Miller. Raquel will also be leading our Kids Club along with Elizabeth Biederman, Kathie Loris, and Pam Queen. Don Kolacki, with assistance from other adults, will be leading our Breakfast Club.

Worship In September

Sept. 7—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Communion, Psalm 149, Matthew 18:15-20.

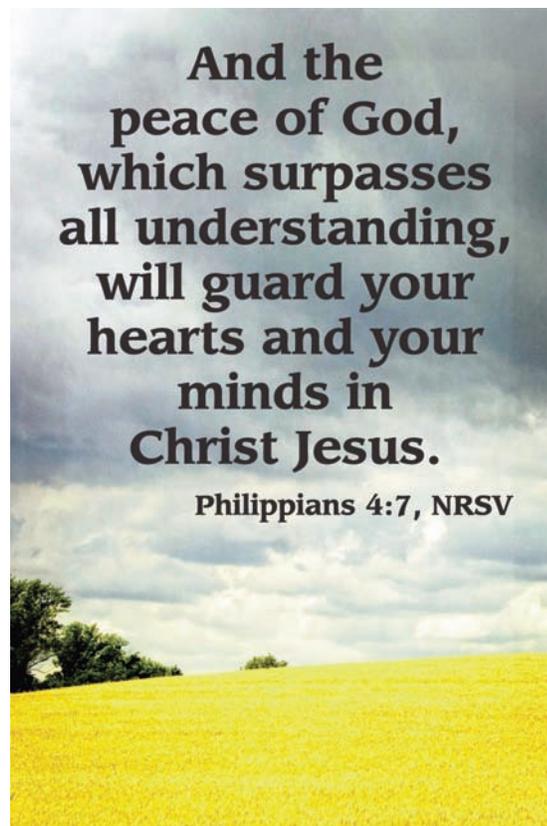
Sept. 14—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Exodus 14:19-31, Matthew 18:21-35.

Sept. 21—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Exodus 16:2-15, Matthew 20:1-16.

Sept. 28—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Matthew 21:23-32.

What better way to start the new year than with an ice cream party? The entire congregation is invited to join us at coffee hour on September 7 for some sweet treats, provided by the Kids Club and Breakfast Club leaders.

—Debbie Kolacki



Circle of Concern

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, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Dianna Peterra and family, Chris Jackson, Babette Bishop, Patricia Puk, Roberta Pilsen, Rich, Leah, Joann Egan, Quigley Family, Elysse Klaves 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, Guy Vitale, 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 and Charles Bates.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Keyana White, Wayne Williams, Bob Venator, Jack, Dennis Gambler, Gabby, Jessica Morendo de Ortega, Moly Alencastre, Louise Kirschner, Al Eid.

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.

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 11772.

Ted Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY, 631-475-4194.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Holbrook. NY.

Pray for our church and its future direction.

Make your Prayer Request on line at PatchogueUMC.Org

A Message from the Finance Committee Chair

Vacations are over and church is back in full swing. School is back in session and Sunday school has started.

All this means it is time to catch up on your pledges if you are behind. The quarterly giving statements have been done. So you will know if you are up to date or not.

We implore you, if you are behind please try to catch up. If you are up to date or even ahead, we say THANK YOU.

We have been able to pay our day to day expenses this summer.

However, we still need to pay our insurance bill, Swezey's and our apportionments. These are big bills and they need to be paid.

I don't mean to belabor the issue but our budget is based on your pledges. That is the income we depend on.

Reminders: We need assistance on our Finance Committee. If you would like to volunteer to join the committee and assist us, please let me know. We meet once a month, on the second Sunday.

We need counters. It would only require you to count the offering once a month after service. Tom Bracken will gladly train anyone who would be willing to volunteer.

Thank you. Blessings,

—Dianne Adone

The deadline for contributions to the October edition of **TheLink** is September 19. 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!

Here it is, September, and we all made it through another summer. Cooler, and much less humid for the most part; all in all, a delightful summer for someone like me whose favorite part of the four seasons is late October through mid December. Wouldn't be great if we could bend the weather to our will, and have every summer delightful, and every winter mild? Regarding that last thought, one of my favorite quotes of all time is from Mark Twain: "A great, great deal has been said about the weather, but very little has ever been done".

But aside from the problematic question of who, exactly, the "we" would be that's doing the bending (for example, in winter the 50-mile commuter would cast a different vote than the guy who just bought a fancy snow plow for his Super Duty), summer for me is far more than a matter of degrees and barometric pressures; it's the time when somewhere around 2/3 of my church family seems to go bye-bye. The song "See you in September", by The Happenings (no, it was NOT by the Four Seasons!), used to have a sweet sense of sentiment; now it represents something entirely different.

I did not make that statement to whine, nor did I make it to cast aspersions and guilt—in point of fact, I took two Sundays off from church to go sailing. (So far, anyway—I'm writing this in mid August). Most people vacation in the summer, and if you're lucky enough to be able to take 3 or 4 weeks,

that is wonderful! Nor did I make it because of the perilous plunge the operating fund has taken by the end of each August—since I can't fix the problem alone, I've stopped making it my personal crusade. No, the reason I made the statement is for the most selfish and self-centered of reasons:

I miss my family.

A few of you know that I came from a very small family to begin with. Most of them have passed on; all that I have now is a wonderful sister, and a brother who disowned me—with cause—eight years ago. So by the time I began picking up the pieces of my life about seven years ago (not a typo, it took a year or so just for the explosion to burn out, and then to FIND the pieces) I was pretty much an orphan, especially in the spiritual sense. And then Kathie and I discovered UMC Patchogue.

Remember the old rhyme, where you put your hands together and do cool things with your fingers? "This is the church / and this is the steeple / open the doors / and here's all the people". Kathie was coming from a different denomination, and frankly I didn't care what denomination it was, as long as it wasn't the one in which I was raised. But since God seemed to have led us here for a reason, we pitched in our financial skills with a will, and did what we could to help the "church and the steeple". At this point I'll stop speaking on my lady's behalf.

And so I put on my blinders, rolled up my sleeves, and went to work. What I didn't count on or expect was that, one by one, you all moved from being names and numbers and dollars on an envelope to speaking acquaintances,

and then to friends, and then to people who opened their hearts to me in welcome and love. This was new stuff for someone who basically lived a hit-and-run existence for a half-century. And at some point, probably several years into the process, I started letting down my guard and letting you in. Then, after even more time, I finally got it: God has walked patiently beside me all these years, and when my heart was finally ready to surrender, He gave me my family. And of course, you were there for me all along.

So what's my Lesson along the Way here? The flash-card answer, for me at least, is simply "remain teachable". But the real, meaningful, 3-part answer is that I am part of a church family, and part of God's Family; that I may be more comfortable with some of you than others, but I truly love you all; and that you're all in relationship with Jesus Christ, and it's really none of my _____ business what you do in the summer.

Boy, I sure disliked typing that last one. But I typed it—maybe there's hope for me yet!

Your Little-Brother-in-Christ,

—Tom Bracken

birthdays

Sept. 1 Thomas Bender
Sept. 15 Daniel Stone
Sept. 25 Haley Abate



Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Incomplete Evolution

"The wolf shall lie down with the lamb ..." (Isaiah 11:6)

Sometimes I think it more probable that animal predators would learn to live amicably with their prey than for humans to live peaceably with each other. Look at the headlines: Monstrous brutality in Iraq; Americans fighting other Americans in Missouri; little children warehoused in Texas, pawns in political and economic power struggles.

And on and on.

Do you ever wonder if, as a species, we simply have not evolved enough? That, while our brains developed rapidly over the millennia, there was no accompanying development of a moral center? That we act too often like precocious, but undisciplined, children, thinking only of our own needs and wants?

Well, I don't know if that's scientifically sound theory, but it sounds possible to me. Sometimes, I don't know how else to explain the misery and suffering that exists in this world, not because of natural disasters, but solely due to human greed, arrogance, ignorance, duplicity and love of power. No, change that to lust for power. Love's got nothing to do with it. And yet, we know what is right and good and just. In our own Judeo Christian tradition, we have the blueprint for an ethical society in the 10 Commandments. In all of Jesus' teachings, we see the way to harmony with God, through love and mercy and just actions. In other religions, the keys to right living are centered on respect for life and love of the Divine. In our own times, we've seen people like Gandhi and Martin

Luther King not just preach non violence, but live it, and ultimately die for it.

There are no simple or easy solutions to the sorrow of this world, but we can know that humans are capable of great goodness as well as great evil. To know that each small act of kindness, of generosity, of selfless behavior has an effect on the world. Someday, those small acts will change the world. Someday. It is up to each of us to try to live each day in ways that please God. Words are not enough. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to work within us. In the words of the hymn: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

—**Barbara Becker**

Church Leaders Strive For Ferguson Peace

Since Aug 9, the Rev. F. Willis Johnson has devoted his entire ministry to fostering peaceful — and meaningful — responses to the police shooting of an unarmed black teenager and the violent tumult that followed in Ferguson, Mo.

The shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown led to four days of clashes between police in military-grade riot gear and angry crowds.

The United Methodist pastor led prayer vigils, helped with cleanup, met with community leaders and comforted protesters. Other United Methodist leaders answered his call to help a community in pain.

"The ultimate concern is this: Under no pretense does someone deserve to lose their life, and in this case to have innocence stripped," said Johnson, who is also the father of a teenage son. "Innocence is not defined by court law but by the fact all life is sacred. In our faith tradition, that is

enough to stand on."

Wellspring Church, the predominantly African-American United Methodist congregation Johnson started in 2011, is about a block from the police station in the St. Louis suburb and less than a mile from where most of the protests have been taking place. The church, in partnership with the Association of Black Psychologists, has provided counseling to anyone in the community who requests it.

When unrest led the Ferguson-Florissant School District to cancel classes, the church welcomed children with educational games and healthy food so parents could work without scrambling for child-care Friday. Members of other area United Methodist churches volunteered to help, and the Missouri Annual (regional) Conference provided financial support for the church's outreach this week.

"The rallying cry of support and the uptick in engagement from churches in our connection and their leaders has been very, very encouraging," Johnson said.

The Rev. Matt Miofsky, lead pastor of The Gathering, said his church responded by praying, organizing and listening to community needs. The Gathering, a predominantly white, multi-site United Methodist congregation in the St. Louis area, is among the congregations that sent volunteers to Wellspring on Friday.

"There is a lot of grief, which I don't think the media has really covered," he said. "I also think there is a sense of powerlessness and disenfranchisement, a sense of having a voice but having no one willing to listen."

He saw resiliency, too. "I continually hear a deep faithfulness and hope that God is present and at work for good and not for harm."

Continued on Page 7

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>2</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>5</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—SPRC 6-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	<i>8</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>9</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>12</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance	<i>15</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>16</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>19</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School	<i>22</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>23</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir	<i>26</i> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	<i>29</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>30</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA				

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"Must've been a candy apple. I can't believe
Adam and Eve would do us in for plain fruit."

Save the Date

On Oct. 18, (Saturday), the church will present a live auc-
tion as one of our major fundraisers. If you were able to
attend our first one last year, you'll remember what fun it
was. We hope to have a wide array of items to bid on. Of
course, there'll be food, and possibly some sort of entertain-
ment—maybe a hypnotist?

Stay tuned for more specific details.

—**Barbara Becker**

Ferguson Churches (From Page 5)

Difficult week

This has been a difficult week for pastors and others in the community as the events raised questions nationwide about race relations and police tactics.

Underlying the crisis is the death of Brown — just two days before he was scheduled to start classes at a technical college.

What happened Saturday, Aug. 9 is still being investigated by parallel federal and state probes.

According to a friend who says he witnessed the incident, Brown was walking in a Ferguson apartment complex when a police officer ordered him to get on the sidewalk. The friend said Brown had his hands up to show he was unarmed when the officer shot him multiple times. The police account is that Brown attacked the officer and tried to grab his gun.

The police initially delayed releasing the name of the officer saying there were threats to his safety. On Friday, Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson, identified the officer as Darren Wilson, a six-year veteran. Jackson also released security-camera footage from a convenience store that showed a young man pushing a store clerk. The police identified the man as Brown.

One protest took a destructive turn the night of Aug. 10 when a QuikTrip convenience store was looted and burned. Law enforcement has faced mounting criticism for aggressive tactics that included dispersing crowds by firing rubber bullets and tear gas.

Johnson, the Ferguson pastor, said he was among the crowd days later when a Washington Post photographer captured an image of Johnson calming down Joshua Wilson, one of Brown's friends.

“Something just said, ‘Grab him, hold him,’ maybe initially to keep him back but ultimately to become what is really symbolic of the situation that’s at hand,” Johnson told National Public Radio in an emotional interview. “People who are hurting need to be affirmed in their hurt, people who are angry need to be affirmed in their anger.”

The crisis, Johnson told NPR, “is not a race issue in and of itself.”

“This is a human issue. If you are honest and true, you can’t help but look at other people and look at situations and say there but for the grace of God go you and me.”

The Rev. Ivan James, an African-American and pastor of predominantly African-American Asbury United Methodist Church in downtown St. Louis, viewed the shooting and its aftermath with mixed emotions.

He worked with Johnson to help in Ferguson, and volunteers from his church helped provide childcare at WellSpring.

“We need to keep a calm head,” he told United Methodist News Service. “We need to keep a loving heart and we need justice for what actually occurred. We understand we need to find ways to bring better resources to that community, so people have hope.”

On Thursday, Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the Missouri Highway Patrol to take over safety and crowd control in Ferguson from the St. Louis County Police Department. According to news accounts, the demonstration that night was peaceful, and the armored police cars were gone.

However, more unrest came the following night, and on Saturday, Nixon declared a state of emergency in Ferguson and imposed a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew.

‘We are all St. Louisans Now’

Kenneth J. Pruitt, a United Methodist clergy candidate and member of the ecumenical monastic community Anam Cara, attended an impromptu and peaceful prayer vigil Aug. 10 in Ferguson. “I was one of only about seven or eight white people in the place, and the only white male,” he said. “Everyone was very welcoming and very kind.”

He also attended a public forum with local and state leaders, and Wednesday night helped a friend get two reporters, who had been arrested, back to their cars after they were released from jail.

Pruitt is among a group of St. Louis Area United Methodists who published a statement titled “We Are All St. Louisans Now” on UMCLead.com. The statement called for the right of peaceful protests, denounced looting and urged the church to do more to reach out to the marginalized, especially African-American communities.

“We believe that the church, particularly our United Methodist Church, can’t sit this one out,” the statement said.

“The United Methodist Church has not served the African American community in this city in the way that our Christ would have us serve. Justice begins at the margins.”

United Methodist leaders urged churchgoers not to lose sight of God’s power to bring healing.

As he arrived at an afternoon prayer meeting Thursday in advance of the night’s demonstration, Johnson quickly shared his prayer for his community. “The prayer is that we continue to be receptive to the presence of God in all of this, in all things,” he told United Methodist News Service. “Justice is promised and will be given, and there is a peace that passes all understanding.”

—Heather Hahn, UMNS

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
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TheLink

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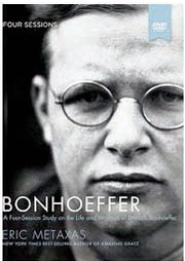
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Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
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SEPTEMBER

New Wednesday Night Study Begins October 1



We will begin a new four week video-based adult study on the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Wednesday

evening, October 1. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who resisted the Nazis during World War II and eventually died in a concentration camp.

In this study, participants will discover the major themes of Bonhoeffer's writing and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today. The video

segments were filmed on location in Germany and the four sessions include these topics: What is the Church?, Life Together, God Says Yes/Cheap Grace, and Religionless Christianity.

All are welcome to join the study which will meet at the church on October 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The study will be led by Barbara Becker. For more information or to register, contact the church office at 475-0381 or patchogueumc@yahoo.com.

—*Debbie Kolacki*

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