

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2013

Edited By George Hoag

Don't Forget To Take Him With You

Summer is finally here and we can start to sense the atmosphere change not only in our surroundings but also in our attitudes, moods and plans. As we come to this always well-awaited season, we can only hope that our spiritual life and journey continues to flourish “Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesian’s 4:13 NIV 2011). During this time of the year, we are just about ready to get into our vacation mode. The attitude seems to be something like this: Bring out the sunglasses, sun tan lotion, the BBQ and get the cooler ready, summer here I come!

We all need a vacation as surely as we need rest and sleep but we always need God to be an important part of our life. Here’s a thought for you. How would you feel if God decided to take a vacation from being our God, protector, counselor and savior? What if all of a sudden we got disconnected from God? How would that affect our relation of trust and commitment to Him? I think what I’m trying to communicate, is that God would never take a pause or even a small vacation from

Continued on Page 5

Worship In June

June 2—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez. *Sing A New Song*, Psalm 96, Luke 7:1-10.

June 9—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Prayer, Restoring The Natural Order of Things*, Psalm 146, Luke 7:11-17.

June 16—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Freed In Christ—For What?*, Psalm 5:1-8, Galations 2:15-21.

June 23—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *One In Christ*, Psalm 22:19-28, Galations 3:23-29.

June 30—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Spiritual Disciplines*, Psalm 16, Galations 5:1, 13-25.



Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

For the Family and Friends of Hazel Nargi, Gail Hoag's mother.

For Guidance:

Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Rose Conti, Lisa Prince, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Sofia and her family, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Carlos Alvarado, Tim, Paul, Christine, Carol Moore, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell, Linda, Stephen Martin, Purificato Family, Ashley Lauren, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, Alicia Evans, Debbie Jemma, Barbara, Katie, Anna, Suzanne, Amanda Garcia, Doris May, Margaret, Lois, Laurie, Bonnie Smith, Debbie Turpeau, Julio, Lisa, Paul Walkawitz, Debbie, Tom Kerr, Laura Jacobs, Barbara Jehle, Elise Gavrock, Steve, June Barile, Luke Gonzalez, Raymond and Randy Prince, the Elam Family, Paula Rowe, Jennifer Femister and family, Joann Henn, Steve McCarthy, Bruce Kirschner, Elaine and family, Lillian Aparicio, Marge Prince, Stephen, Rich Azzopardi, Carolyn Seus, Rosemary Swartz, Joe Tucker, Kevin Stieger, Melanie Schnieder, Connie Castogua, Marybeth Losch and family, Joan Curtis' sister, Michael Emmel, Joseph Emmel, Kim Kluge, Emily Zeh, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Jody, Victor Levine's father, Henry Prince, Caleb Edward, Ryan Cullin, Sanborn Family, Lisa, Manzolillo, Donna Horoski, Mia Heyliger, Andrew, Caleb, Susan, Ashley's baby, Steve Sotis and Daniela Sotis, Sharon and Thomas, the Robins Family, the Ikpe Family, Rosie, Lacey, Elba Roblen, MaryEllen, Raquel Miller and Ginny Tatem, Dean Allen, Joe Nesfield, Donna Lesparance, Swan Family, Watson Family, Cheryl.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Debbie Fiore, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, Maureen Grippi, Debbie Turpeau, Rich Kaufold, Michael T. Battaglia, Andrew Wittman, Jr., Al Monteverdi, Henry Ohlsen, Carolyn Venator, Gladys Messias, Laura Magill, Kent Turchaniun, Erin Purce, Henry Prince, George Russler, Pasquale Arpaio, Waldon Scott, Trudy Ann Smith, Margaret, Louis Casaccio and Jhara Tumm and Peter Dastis and Jerry Lamagna.

These at Home:

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra

McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick, Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Sandy Burrell, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, the Moultrre Family, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Muriel Vilar, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother,) Catherine Interrante, Beth Widera, Marie Cirillo, Bob Ruggiero, Pat Addison, Don Wilson, Pat Q. Bayne, the McCarthy family, Mike Battaglia, Al Montverdi, Janet Monteverdi, Paula Rowe, Albert Eid, Thomas, Andrew Brand, Ted Davies, Bob DeLaVergne, Margaret Mauck and Judy Hester.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

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

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

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

Remember
the Church
in Your Will

The deadline for contributions to the July-August edition of **TheLink** is June 14. 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! When I started this column several months ago, I promised all of you that "I will share some of the events and awakenings in my own spiritual journey, in the hope that at least some of you can identify with them, gain some insight, or perhaps sidestep the next landmine on your own path of faith... I will share honestly what is on my mind and in my heart". Please note the careful wording – the things I write here are never designed to be a subtle criticism of someone else; they are my own sometimes-painful enlightenments as I try my best to follow Jesus.

It would seem that, every time I get ready to write this column, God provides something for me to write about (usually by a number of well-placed smacks to the head). Today is no different. Service. It's such an easy word to understand, even simpler to bandy about as a badge of honor: "Yes, I do a lot of service in my church". When I say that – and, unfortunately, I do from time to time – I am violating the essence of humility that Jesus carried in his heart every day. And, in whichever way I use it, it comes right back to "number one on the seven deadly sins hit parade": Pride.

You see, whenever I talk about the service I do, instead of just doing it for the inherent joy and rightness of the act, then one of three prideful things is going on in my head: a) I'm doing a good job, in which case I need an ego-stroking; b) I'm not doing a good job, in which case I need an ego-stroking; or c) I'm falling down miserably in

other areas of my life, so in order to feel better (needy?), I need an ego-stroking. Wow, there's a theme here! Everybody look to your neighbor and say "Hmmmmm..."

A wonderful speaker a few years ago, in a different context, said that "principle always trumps motive". It is absolutely true for me that when I am doing service, I am happier and more at peace than at any other time in my life (and believe me: the first 54 years of my life had absolutely nothing to do with God's kind of service). So I'm going to offer up three examples of service for your consideration – not mine, others in our church family – which I see and have seen. These are to be anonymous examples, but not really if you think about it. And believe me, I think about it a lot.

1) Every Sunday, while we sit and enjoy our worship, there are several people who prepare Wesley Hall for the fellowship we enjoy after the service. They miss part of the service to prepare, they spend time during the week to purchase what we need, they always greet us with a welcoming smile, and they're usually the last ones to leave, making sure everything is cleaned up. And never once in five years have I heard one of them make any "needy-noise" about it.

2) There is a person who does incredible, selfless, work around our church, always involved with outreach to the community. This person does it so quietly, and without any fanfare whatsoever, that I had no idea of the scope and dedication and selflessness involved for the first four years I was here. But now I get it. This person is a guidepost for me on what service in the Lord really is, and I consider

him/her to be a true blessing. (And he/she will probably put a whuppin' on me for even talking about this, because he/she acts in true humility. Regardless, my love goes out to this person).

3) Four women from UMC Patchogue served on the Walk to Emmaus this past weekend (a fifth couldn't make it, with a very valid reason). I had the opportunity to spend a little time with one of the women Saturday evening, and more time last night. For me, one of the two ultimate forms of service * is in guiding others to a closer relationship with Christ, and that's what the Walk to Emmaus is all about. This woman (and, I am absolutely certain, all the others who served) was out on her feet last night, and yet there was the joy in her of having done service for the Lord. Not pride; God-given joy.

These are forms of service that are driven by the principal of love for Jesus and doing his work. Motive is not only trumped, it becomes irrelevant, because this kind of service is of, and belongs to, God. In my own journey, I am still struggling to understand what these people above have already found: that service in and for God is the most wonderful thing we can do in life, for others, and for our own peace.

Yours in Christ,

—Tom Bracken

* See Matthew 25:34-36 for the other one...



Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Confirmation 2013—“We Have Jesus”

Working with the students in the confirmation class of 2013 was a wonderful experience. The youth in the class were perceptive, creative, respectful, and honest.

When the pastor first asked me to get involved with the confirmation program, I wasn't sure what to expect. In the past, preparation for confirmation involved passing along the doctrines of the Christian faith and classes included memorization of creeds and written tests that the students either passed or failed. Being involved in Christian Education, I knew that confirmation was increasingly being seen as a time when youth should be involved in a process of faith formation where they figure out what they believe, as opposed to being told what to believe. In addition, the youth should also be actively involved in living their faith.

We started out using the United Methodist Church's Credo confirmation curriculum, where the students learned about Methodist history, church doctrine, and church history. Of course, it's important for them to know as much as possible about the Christian church they're being confirmed in, however, the students had questions that went beyond the scope of this curriculum, questions such as “Why is there suffering?” and “What about hell?” So we added some lessons from the Reform confirmation curriculum and the students learned that the Christian journey sometimes involves having faith even when we don't have all the answers.

The students were encouraged to

serve the church and their community by volunteering in the church's community garden, summer lunch program for children, and other areas of the church.

Each student had a mentor who accompanied them on their journey. The mentors were mature Christians who were invited to confirmation classes and involved in other aspects of the program. The mentors, as well as the parents of each student, also had several “TalkSheets” on faith-related topics which they discussed together.

To teach the students the importance of being close to God through prayer and other means, we had a mini-retreat on spiritual practices. All the mentors attended and, together with the students, learned about different types of prayer as well as spiritual practices such as guided meditation, labyrinths, and mandalas.

In one class we learned about other religions and Christianity. A suggested activity was to create a sign that focused on something positive and unique about Christianity. We brainstormed a bit and one of the students came up with these three words: “We have Jesus.” I'm not sure even a group of theologians could have come up with anything better.

So, I thank Nicholas, Jacob, Montana, Steven, Abdiel, Colby, and Megan for letting me be a part of this experience and helping me renew my faith. May God be with you for the rest of the journey and may you always know that you have a home with your church family. My blessings on you all as you are confirmed in the faith on June 2.

—Debbie Kolacki

Take Him With You (from Page 1)

being our God and so intend to be with us always. On this well deserved and awaited summer season, let us not leave God behind. If anything, take God with you and plan on being together. Wherever go or whatever you do don't forget God. Lets double-check our list once again. It seems like we might have everything we need. We really wouldn't leave our baggage behind on a long awaited trip right? Well don't forget to take God with you this summer, put him on the top of your list. I'm certain that He wants to be with you always. Have a great summer!

—Pastor Sanchez

By All Means, Save Some

Tragedy comes in threes, some say. If that is so, then we've had our share on U.S. soil in recent weeks. What's left are vexing questions about what we can and will do next to limit future tragedies.

The beloved Boston Marathon became a Boston Massacre on April 15 when two unsuspected terrorists took precious lives and left broken, bloodied victims, along with a nation in shock at its own vulnerability. Then a fertilizer plant's storage facility exploded in tiny West, Texas, also taking lives, destroying homes and leaving us once again dismayed at our vulnerability—this time to environmental disaster when regulations are too often broken and not adequately enforced.

However, the third tragedy—or rather the first—may be the most insidious and lethal over time because it has—and will—cost us many more lives through violence, murder and suicide. The collection of sensible gun control bills that held

Continued on Page 7

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
2 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School Confirmation	3 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	4 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	5	6 11:00 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	7 7:30 p.m.—N/A	8
9 9:00 a.m.—Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School (Last Day) 12:00 p.m.—Church Picnic 2:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service	10 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	11 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	12	13 11:00 a.m.—Small Group Devotional	14 7:30 p.m.—N/A	15 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—Defensive Driving Class UMW BBQ
16 9:00 a.m.—Study 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.—Sunday School Teachers 11:30 a.m.—Finance Committee 2:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service	17 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	18 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	19	20 11:00 a.m.—Small Group Devotional	21 7:30 p.m.—N/A	22
23 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.—Trustees 2:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service	24 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	25 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	26	27 11:00 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	28 7:30 p.m.—N/A	29
30 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship 2:30 p.m.—Salvation Army Class & Service						

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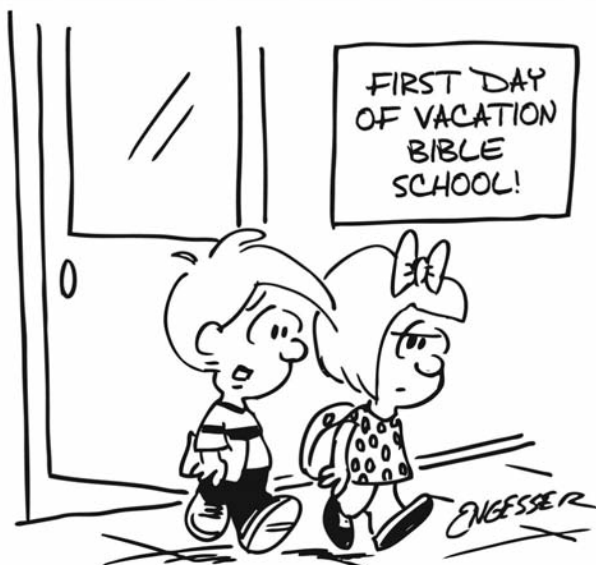
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"Just when ya think you're done,
it's already back-to-school time!"



**FROM THE RISING
OF THE SUN
TO ITS SETTING,
THE NAME OF
THE LORD IS
TO BE PRAISED!**

PSALM 113:3, ESV

The Parish Resource Center

Did you know that the UMC of Patchogue subscribes to the Parish Resource Center? That means that anyone from our church can use the resource center at no cost and find assistance in all areas of church work, as well as resources for their own personal faith formation.

The resource center is sort of like a library where people borrow books, videos, banners, puppets, etc., but it's also a whole lot more. A team of consultants is available to help you:

- *plan a new church program or improve an existing one,
- *help you select group study material from our many resources,
- *plan a retreat,
- *offer advice if you're in a new volunteer or paid position in your church,
- *help you make a banner for your church,
- *assist you in choosing Sunday school curriculum,
- *show you the best ways to recruit volunteers,
- *plan activities for your youth group,
- *plan a worship service,
- *learn how to improve your church newsletter and web site,
- *help you select a Christmas pageant that's right for you,
- *and assist you in many other ways.

Webinars and workshops on many different topics are available with a special rate for those from subscribing churches, as well as free monthly webinars for those involved in Sunday school and children's ministry.

If you're unable to get to the center offices in Rocky Point and Bellport, assistance is available over the telephone (631-821-2255) or via e-mail (info@prcli.org). In addition, Debbie Kolacki, a member of our congregation, is one of the consultants at the center and would be happy to meet with you at our church and bring resources to you. You can call Debbie at the center or e-mail her at debbie.lie@prctr.org.

To learn more about the Parish Resource Center, visit their website at prcli.org.

What's Cool In Sunday School

Congratulations are in order for the following children who received their bibles on June 9th.

My daughter, Sarah Biederman
Paige Hayward
Sara Okun
Robert Queen
and Nicholas Streng

I hope you enjoy reading your bibles

—**Debbie Kolacki**

and know that Jesus and your church family love you very much

I wanted to let everyone know what will be happening over the Summer (can you believe it!) months. There will be a Vacation Bible School held in our church from July 15th-19th. It will be from 9:00-12:00 p.m. Please contact the church office if you are interested in enrolling your child. If you are interested in helping out, please contact

either Barbara, Cynthia, or myself because we can use all the help we can get. There will be no Sunday school during the Summer.

On June 16th there will be a Sunday school teacher's meeting to wrap up the school year and discuss how the plans for our Vacation Bible School are going. Feel free to sit in on this meeting if you want to help out in any way.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who helped our Sunday School this year one more time. You know who you are and I am truly blessed to be able to count on your unending support.

May you have a safe and wonderful Summer and may God keep you safe

—**Elizabeth Biederman, Sunday School Superintendent**

Save Some (From Page 5)

such promise for our nation's safety and sanity—even the heavily compromised background checks bill—failed to reach the U.S. Senate's 60-vote threshold to become laws of the land. Sadly, the news coverage and painful outcry from that tragedy were too quickly muted by the horrific events of that same week.

While the deadly crimes and mayhem in Boston prompts investigations, analyses and maybe public policy decisions, the post-mortem on the Senate vote against gun safety can only evoke just criticism and cries of shame....for now. As he pleaded with the Tsarnaev brothers to surrender, their distressed uncle railed at them on television for the shame they had brought on their family. I and many others could echo his cries at our Senators who broke the hearts of gun victim's families everywhere and also broke their vow to represent the interests

Continued on Page 8

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

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

Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.org

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

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Save Some (From Page 7)

of voters, an overwhelming majority of whom support universal background checks for gun purchases.

The most shameful part of that vote was the lies of opponents and conspiracy theorists who misrepresented the content and intent of the bills before them and who profess more concern for protecting our right to keep and bear arms than protecting what our Constitution and our culture both value most: human life. Twenty-five people were shot over Easter weekend alone in my hometown, Chicago, and more than 400 young people there were victims of gunshots last year. We are forced to grieve over too many Hadiya Pendletons— young lives lost to illegal gun possession and senseless gun violence.

Indeed, God's Sixth Commandment should be more vital to God's faithful

than our Constitution's Second Amendment—enough so that rampant murders, whether they happen all at once or daily in our streets and homes, should prompt us to adhere even more vigilantly to the Commandment than to the Constitution. Besides, no rights exist without responsibilities and necessary rules. Even the most fundamental right of voting requires registration and increasingly, verification.

“We deserve a vote!” President Obama and the families of many victims proclaimed. And we got one.

Now we deserve much more. We must keep going, keep pushing, keep praying and organizing and working for gun safety—indeed, gun sanity—laws that will surely save some lives. Not all, but some.

—**Bishop Felton Edwin May (retired),
UMNS**



THIS MONTH'S birthdays

- June 2** Shannon Leahy
- June 4** Aspen Chase
- June 7** Joseph Famulari
Brendan Collazo
Billy Hacker
- June 9** Autumn Meyer
Nicholas Lyons
- June 13** Jocelyn Furman
Jennifer Furman
- June 14** Lynne Rice
Adam Alderig
- June 22** Donal Morrissey Jr.
- June 23** Emily Weiss
- June 25** Brandon Gessow