

# The Link



Since 1791

## The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2008

Edited By George Hoag



### Charge Conference

There will be a Charge Conference for our church on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Adrienne Brewington, will preside.

All members of the church are encouraged to attend. At that time, our 2009 budget will be presented, reports from church committees and organizations will be available, and vacancies (if any) on key committees will be filled. Refreshments will be served. Come and learn more about your church.

Heads of committees, organizations and programs should prepare a succinct report (no longer than one page) and submit it to the church office by Oct. 10.

This is a critical time for our church and it is very important that as many members of our church family as possible take part. Please make every effort to attend.

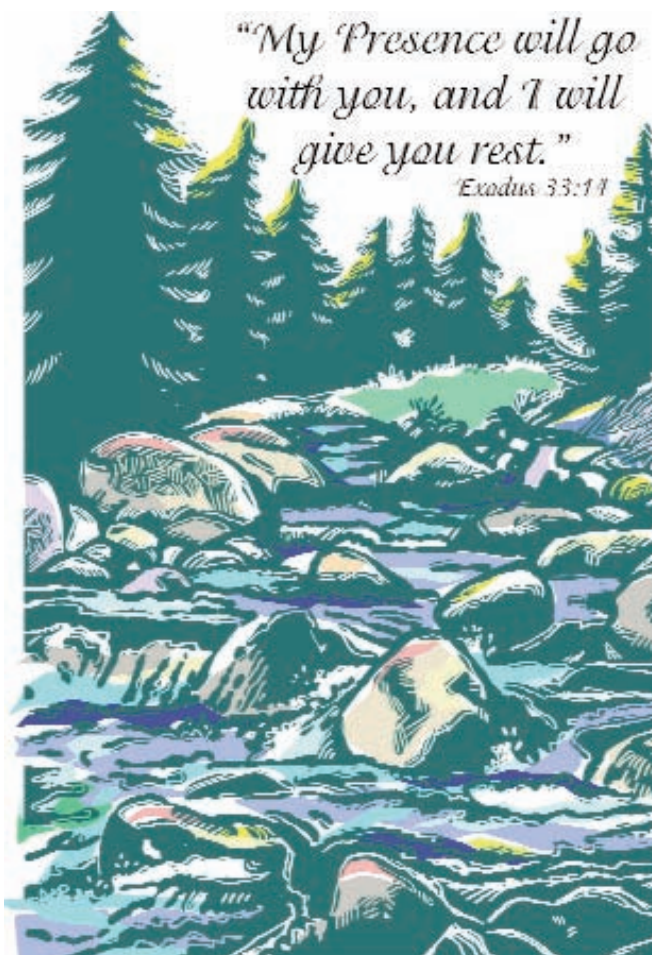
### Worship in October

**October 5** (World Communion Sunday)—Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46; “Because of Christ”

**October 12** (22nd Sunday After Pentecost)—Philippians 4:19, Matthew 22:1-14; “Rejoice in the Lord always”

**October 19** (Laity Sunday)—Exodus 33:12-23, Matthew 22:15-22

**October 26** (Reformation Sunday)—Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Matthew 22:34-46; “Three directions of Love”



# Circle of Concern

## **For Joys:**

The marriage of June Barile's son Philip Demacos to his girlfriend Justine. Katie Weber's friend Steven Santiago has returned safely from Iraq.

## **For Bereavement:**

Family and Friends of: Tricia (Mary) Loris, Helen McKinney; Miriam McKendrick; Andrew Reister; Rudy Shtick; Liam Keady.

## **For Guidance:**

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, David & Lori Purificato, Ray Gallo, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Brenda Bonfe D'Angelo.

## **These Who are Hospitalized:**

C. Cliffridge McLean, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Jeff Burdett, Lida Griffith, Albert & Barbara Bonfe, Billy Lattazino, Lydia Gaudagino, Betty Braile, Nana Grace, Frank Barile, Nancy Marshall, Michael Abate, Howard Alt, Deborah Belmonte.

## **These at Home:**

Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Mark Hoffman, Eric & Pat Carlson, Nancy Rogers, Elise Gavrock, Martha Campanile, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Cheryl Ward, Chrissy Leddin, Linda Werner's friend Lois, Lucille Barthelme, Jean Miller, Henry Prince, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Ruth Masem, and Kitty Dayton.

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

George and Shirley Strauss; 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 Brunner 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.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

## **United Methodist Women**

Soup Sundays will return after worship on the following Sundays—Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 9. Delicious homemade soups will be sold at modest prices to help fund the missions of the UMW.

The UMW sponsored Holiday Fair will take place on Nov 15th. All sorts of potential Christmas gifts will be available for sale, including a number of handcrafted items. There will also be a White Elephant table with interesting knick knacks, etc. Donations of items for the White Elephant table can be given to Jeannie Miller. Tasty food will be served, including Cecilia's famous chili and, of course, there will be a baked goods table. Gift baskets and a 50/50 will be available.

This is our major fund raiser, which enables the UMW to not only keep our monetary pledge to the worldwide missions of United Methodist Women, but also to contribute funds to the church operating budget, as we have done for the last three years.

If you have handcrafted or other products to sell, as a church member, you can obtain a table by contacting Sue Silhan at [suesil@optonline.net](mailto:suesil@optonline.net) or speak to Barbara Becker. The cost to church members is \$25.00

The next meeting of UMW will be on 10/18 at 9:30. We will discuss further developing a mission project to benefit the devastated nation of Haiti. All are welcome to attend all UMW meetings.

The annual meeting of the NY Conference United Methodist Women will take place on Oct. 25 at Bible UMC in Dix Hills. The speaker will be Garlinda Burton, editor of Interpreter magazine. Several of our members will be attending. If you are interested, speak to Barbara Becker, Geri Sheridan or Sue Silhan. The cost is \$15.00.

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

## The Mystery of Communion

The first Sunday of October is the World Communion Sunday. It is a time to be in communion with Christians all over the world and to enable us to "press on toward the goal" of serving God in life-changing ministries.

As early as the Emmaus experience on the day of Resurrection, recorded in Luke 24:13-35, Christians recognized the presence of Jesus Christ in the breaking of bread. The traditional Jewish practice of taking bread, blessing and thanking God, and breaking and sharing the bread took on new meaning for them. When followers of Christ gathered in Jesus' name, the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup was a means of remembering his life, death, and resurrection and of encountering the living Christ. They experienced afresh the presence of their risen Lord and received sustenance for their lives as disciples. As the church organized itself, this custom of Eucharist became the characteristic ritual of the community and the central act of its worship.

Like baptism, Holy Communion is regarded by Protestants as a sacrament. That is, it's an act of worship ordained by Christ and is a means of grace. This does not mean that we become any more worthy of God's grace by taking part in Communion. Rather, we open ourselves to the divine love that's already there; we become more ready to receive that love and to respond to it.

As with baptism, we use common, physical gifts of the earth, bread and wine—though in United Methodist churches we prefer unfermented grape juice. All Christians are welcome at our

table, whatever their denomination. Holy Communion is a family meal, and all Christians are members of Christ's family. Therefore, in each congregation, when we receive the bread and cup, we join with millions of brothers and sisters across the ages and around the world.

Holy Communion (or the Lord's Supper) is a mystery too deep for words. Its meaning will vary for each of us and from one time to another. But three essential meanings are caught up in this proclamation in our Communion service: "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again" (The United Methodist Hymnal, p. 14).

### "Christ has died"

In part, Communion is a time to remember Jesus' death, his self-giving sacrifice on our behalf. As he said to the disciples at their last meal together, "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24).

In remembering his passion and crucifixion, we remember our own guilt; for we know that in our sin we crucify Christ many times over from day to day. So the Lord's Supper is a time of confession: "We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart....We have not heard the cry of the needy" (The United Methodist Hymnal, p. 12).

### "Christ is risen"

But Communion is not a memorial service for a dead Jesus. It's not a time to wallow in our own guilt. It's a time to celebrate the Resurrection, to recognize and give thanks for the Risen Christ. The bread and wine represent the living presence of Christ among us—though we do not claim, as some denominations do, that they become

Christ's body and blood.

In Luke's Resurrection story, the Risen Christ broke bread with two of his followers at Emmaus, "then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him" (24:31). So, as we're nourished by this meal, our eyes are opened; and we recognize Christ here in our congregation, our community, and our world. What's our response? Thanksgiving! In fact, another of our words for Communion, the Eucharist, means thanksgiving.

### "Christ will come again"

In Communion we also celebrate the final victory of Christ. We anticipate God's coming reign, God's future for this world and all creation. As Jesus said, "I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29).

We believe that we're partners with God in creating this future, but the demands of discipleship are rigorous. In the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, in the fellowship of Christian friends gathered at his table, we find the nourishment we need for the tasks of discipleship ahead.

—**Pastor Chung**

**From The United Methodist Member's Handbook, Revised and Expanded by George E. Koehler (Discipleship Resources, 2006).**

## November Link

The deadline for submissions to the November edition of **The Link** is Oct. 17. Please e-mail to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

*Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!*



Rev. In Koo Chung at the pulpit with District superintendent Adrienne Brewington.

## Stewardship

On Sept. 7, we celebrated an Installation Service for our new pastor In Koo Chung. It was a great ecumenical event involving six local ministers, a priest, and our new District Superintendent Adrienne Brewington, who preached the Sermon. Our Councilman, Timothy Mazzei, and Paul Pontieri, Mayor of Patchogue, also attended. There were more than a hundred people at the Installation. A powerful high-point in the ceremony was when all the clergy and congregation performed a hands-on-prayer for our pastor. Following the ceremony, our United Methodist Women provided a lovely lunch that was enjoyed by all.

We also appreciate the many callers who extended personal invitations to this ceremony and to all who participated.

The Installation of Pastor In Koo Chung has given us a new beginning.

When asked if he would like a theme for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, he said, "I want them to give from their hearts." The campaign will involve the first four Sundays in November, culminating in the submission of pledge cards on Sunday, Nov. 23.

There will be a guest speaker, skits and special sermons on stewardship. Pledge cards will be mailed with the November Link.

We have a new beginning for our Church. To use a metaphor, our Church is like a ship. Our first pastor, Ezra Tuttle, was a bayman on the Great South Bay. He received his calling and began his ministry by dismantling his boat to build the altar for our first Church in 1791. Methodism began in England twenty years before coming to Patchogue. Now we have a new captain (pastor). The officers and crew are all volunteers. When we signed on to become Methodists, we pledged our TIME, TALENTS, and TREASURE. Our ship has had its good times and bad times. Today we are floundering in a turbulent sea of debt. Our life boats (endowments) are nearly exhausted. We need "all hands on deck".

If we all work, tithe, and pray together, our Church will survive this storm.

Our faith in Christ and pulling together will make us strong again. Please pledge with your hearts, so we can sail into calmer waters. Then we can focus on our real goal of better serving Christ.

God bless you.

—Jan Boyd and Dave Hollowell



**IHS**—This sacred monogram originally appeared as "IHC," the first three letters of "IHCOYC," the Greek word for Jesus. Over time the Greek "C" was replaced by the Latin "S" to become "IHS." There are many interpretations given to the letters "IHS," including the Latin "Iesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Men) and the English "I (Christ) Have Suffered."

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> UMW Retreat at Camp Quinipet Begins	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship 11:30 a.m.— Teachers meeting 2:00 p.m.— Hamann/Nulty Wed- ding	<i>6</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>7</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7:30 p.m.— Soul~Food Café, music by In~Not~Of
<i>12</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Finance Committee	<i>13</i> Church Office Closed 7 p.m.—AA	<i>14</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9:30 a.m.—UMW Meeting
<i>19</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship	<i>20</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>21</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 6:00–10:00 p.m.— Chinese Auction at VFW Post 4927, Centereach	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	<i>27</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>28</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 7:30 p.m.—Charge Conference	<i>31</i>	

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It's true our church has grown to the size of a small city. Fred, but we can't sell municipal bonds!

**“DO NOT BE ANXIOUS  
ABOUT ANYTHING,  
BUT IN EVERYTHING,  
BY PRAYER AND  
PETITION, WITH  
THANKSGIVING,  
PRESENT  
YOUR  
REQUESTS  
TO GOD.”**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6, NIV**

## UMC.Org Reviews: *Henry Poole Is Here*

Director: Mark Pellington;  
Production Company: Overture Films;  
Cast: Luke Wilson, Radha Mitchell,  
Adriana Barraza, George Lopez, Cheryl  
Hines, Rachel Seiferth, Morgan Lily;  
Rating: PG for thematic elements and  
some language

By Gregg Tubbs



“Those without faith sometimes need a little help,” advises one character in *Henry Poole Is Here*. If you’re Henry Poole, you may need a miracle—even when the presence of the divine is staring you right in the face. Seriocomic and parable-like, *Henry Poole Is Here* is not only a delight, but is also full of surprises—not the least of which is its endorsement of faith and the presence of the miraculous in our lives. Can a man who simply wants to disappear escape unforeseen fate, resist surprising love and ignore unexpected compassion? The answer is that life is full of surprises and reasons for hope.

I didn’t know what to expect from *Henry Poole*, but like I said, it’s full of delightful surprises. At first, it seemed like I had accidentally stepped into *Leaving Las Vegas II*. *Henry Poole* (Luke Wilson) just wants to be left alone to fade away. He’s mortally depressed (for reasons clear later),

drinking heavily and holed up in a run-down Los Angeles house that he claims he “won’t be in long.” Yet, this is no tale of suicidal despair, but rather a celebration of the rebirth of hope and the tentative awakening of faith. How could Henry not believe when Jesus shows up at his house? Not Jesus himself, but his likeness in the water-stained stucco on the side of his house.

Sometimes believing is seeing. What to the faithless Henry is just an ugly water stain from a botched stucco job is the miraculous image of our Lord to his devout and nosy neighbor, Esperanza (Adriana Barraza). Barraza, in a performance laced with raw emotion and subtle dignity, proves her Oscar nomination for *Babble* was no fluke. Despite his desperate attempts to isolate himself, Henry is drawn out of himself by Dawn (Radha Mitchell), the beautiful divorcée next door and her daughter Millie (Morgan Lily), who hasn’t uttered a word since her father left. And he’s exasperated by the growing stream of believers, often led by Esperanza, who congregate in his yard to gaze upon the holy image on his wall and pray for healing. Soon even her pastor, Father Salazar (George Lopez), arrives to examine the apparition.

In a process alternatively comic and touching, Henry is slowly drawn back into life. Wilson excels as a forlorn everyman who doesn’t so much embrace the miracles and communal love around him as wrestle with them, railing at the pilgrims in his yard and against the care of his concerned neighbors. The product of a turbulent home, Henry seems unsure of how to respond to the kindness of strangers. “You don’t just go around helping people for no reason!” he screams at Esperanza.

But the harder he fights, the more his resistance breaks down. As is often the case, his heart finally begins to soften out of his concern for Millie, whom he sees as a kindred, wounded spirit. In caring for her, he begins to embrace life again and the possibility that there may be miraculous power in the image on his wall.

Rarely do we see a mainstream film (“indie” as it is) that deals so openly and concretely with the concept of faith, depicting the different ways that people deal with a possible encounter with the divine. Henry is not the only skeptic. It’s intimidating, even frightening, for some to come face to face with the divine. Even Father Salazar is cautious, sensing the weight of having to confirm or dispel a miracle. The film also explores the relationship between miracles and faith. Do we perceive miracles because we have faith, or is faith the product of being touched by miracles? Do we believe in miraculous healing, or do we heal ourselves through the power of our own minds? And what role can we play in growing and nurturing the faith of others—particularly those lost in despair?

*Henry Poole Is Here* is a very personal film for director Mark Pellington, who suffered a devastating loss in his own life. How lucky we are that he chose to exorcise his grief by creating for us tender, life-affirming and faith-filled movie. Despite its limited release status, I was thrilled to see *Henry Poole* showing the other night at my local multiplex. Can a beautiful little film like this find an audience? I guess you’ve got to have faith.

*Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!*



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

# The Link



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Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.  
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.  
Supervised Nursery during worship.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46: 1-3, 10-11

*This Month's Birthdays*

10/01  
Matthew McGrath

10/02 Ryan  
Campbell

10/02  
Jessenia Deabreu

10/04 Allison Mauch

10/04 Marc Freiwirth

10/05 Jasmine Famulari

10/10 Dylan Ficurilli

10/13 Caty Silhan

10/13 John Strong

10/13 Ronell Purificato

10/14 Matthew Ferrio

10/15 Skyla Shaw

10/15 Eric Wertz

10/17 Alexa Yaskulski

10/17 Ryan Yaskulski

10/17 Jarid Butler

10/20 Brittany Ficurilli

10/20 Brian Shadbolt

10/20 Jake O'Brien

10/20 Zakkariyya Rowe

10/24 Danielle Pearson

10/26 Travis Belmonte

10/27 Veronica Fimognari

10/27 Amanda Schiavone

10/28 Christopher Bomba

10/29 Justin Martin

10/31 Kathleen Dungey

10/31 Tyler Ferrari

We would like to include you on our e-mail list so that you can be timely updated on events. If you have not been receiving e-mail from us, please send your e-mail address to [patchumc@optonline.net](mailto:patchumc@optonline.net).