

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

May 2010

From the Pastor

Welcome to the month of May, one of my favorite months. What is good this year, we celebrate the confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. We have seven confirmands: Kristina Conste, Cheyenne Costales, Harrison Cullen, McKenzie Dowd, Kwasi Enin, James Roberts, and Elliot Rodriguez. During the past year the confirmands have attended Sunday services and confirmation classes with the pastor, and spent 25 hours serving for the church. Finally, they will be confirmed on Pentecost and become the newest professing members at our church.

The confirmands and I have studied the meaning of the confirmation. What do we confirm? Baptism! At our baptism we were dedicated to God, being born again by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our life is no longer ours but God's: We cannot live as we want but as God wants. Then, why do we confirm our baptism? In fact, our infant baptism was not our choice: You and I did not sign at our baptismal application form, nor even remember what happened at our baptism. If the infant baptism was the decision of our parents, then the confirmation is our own decision to accept and confirm our baptism. Now, the confirmands are old enough to make the important decision for their spiritual journey.

During the confirmation class in March, I emphasized that the confirmation is not the end of journey like a graduation ceremony but the beginning of new relationship with God. The confirmands are no longer contingent members but become professing members. I also shared my experiences that some confirmands had not continued to come to church after the ceremony of confirmation.

Then, one confirmand said, "That is a sin!" It was a very strong voice. I asked her why she thought that way. She answered, "You made a promise with God through the confirmation, and you did not keep the promise. In addition, you told a lie to the pastor. Therefore, that is a sin." After the class, I asked by myself: How many modern Christians are faithful to keeping the promise with God? And how seriously do I practice in my life what I confess to God? I learned sincerity and faithfulness from the 13 year old confirmand.

When you became a member of our church, you must have promised at the ceremony that you would "faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service" (United Methodist Hymnal, 38). Let us remind ourselves of our own confirmation. Let us remember when we became the members of our church. Our church has more than 300 official members, but not many of us have practiced what we promised with God at the membership ceremony.

We sometimes differentiate "active members" from "members." Yet, I heard a colleague of mine saying, "Our church does not use those terms because all members are active members." His church has applied to a strict rule of maintaining membership based on the Book of Discipline. So, if its members

want to keep their membership, they should do their responsibilities by faithfully participating in its ministries by their prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

I am saying this, not because I want to apply to the strict rule for our ministry together, but because I want to remind you and me what we have promised with God, and what we have to do as the members of our church. As I often say, rights and responsibilities always go together. As Christians we have become the children of God, and by faith we have been given eternal life. On the other hand, as Christians and as the members of our church we have some things we have to do. Now, let us learn from the 13 year old confirmand and practice in our Christian lives what we have promised with God. Happy Confirmation!

Sungmu Lee

MISSIONS NEWS

Thanks to all who contributed and helped with the food drive. The Bay Shore Food Pantry continues to tell us that their client load is increasing with fewer contributions.

We are presently working on 24 UMCOR health Kits; these are handed in at Annual Conference, to be used in times of disasters and conflict, all over the world and the USA.

We also are putting together 40 snack bags for Helping hands. This organization gives them to children in summer school programs who may have this as their only food for the day. This contribution is to our local community. Sign up sheets with the needed items is on the Missions bulletin board in the fellowship Hall. The deadline for all items is May 30th.

Our 4th special offering Sunday is May30th, Peace with Justice. Monies collected are used to fund Peace with Justice ministries at the Annual Conference and General Board of Church and Society levels.

We have received thanks from some of the shut-ins for the Easter cards and plants.

200th Anniversary Party

On Saturday, April 30th, just over 200 Methodists gathered at Captain Bills' in Bay Shore. We enjoyed an excellent meal, a lot of good talk and our own Danny sang (we all know that is a treat).

Our past pastors, Tom, Juanita and Betty were present, and we had some reminiscing from them. We also had three form pastors from Islip: Richard, Noel, and Warren. They told some stories about our sister church in Islip. Bishop Park was his usual effervescing self with some singing and a sermon. Too soon our time together was over. If you missed this one, the next hundred year mark will be in 2110! Actually, plans are being made for a local one later in the year at our church.

Thanks go to Pastor Sungmu Lee for getting the Bishop to join us, Tom Wilson for the banner and speaker system, Danny for the music, Donna Lechner for helping with the brochure, tickets and seating.

Christine Hoff, Lay Leader

DORCAS CIRCLE

There will be no May meeting. We will be meeting on the 1st of June for our end-of-the year potluck luncheon, which starts at noon. All ladies are welcome.

The Dorcas ladies are collecting good costume jewelry to be sold at an upcoming vendor sale. Please hand in to Clara Trotta.

PENNIES FOR PRESERVATION

I am back once again with the Pennies for Preservation column. For the month of March we collected \$38.00. Many thanks to all of you who have been bending over and increasing our funds while lessening your waistlines. Since preservation is an ongoing thing with our building I encourage you to keep collecting funds for this project. Alice Cavalla.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers for the Soup Kitchen and Thrift Shop. Some people have been carrying these responsibilities for a long time without a lot of help. My e-mail address is edigiovanna@aol.com. Please let me know if you can volunteer for one or both of these, and which day you can work in the Thrift Shop. Thanks to all who support our mission. *Eileen DiGiovanna*

Prayer Requests

At our morning worship service prayers were requested for: Ruth Garvin, Greg Goodrich, Simeon Grannum, Syril Grannum, Billy Jack, the homeless of Bay Shore, & the people of Poland. As you pray this week please remember these requests.

**Lois Fallon
Worship Committee**

FLOWERS ARE NEEDED

We need flower donations for the altar. Do you have an anniversary, birthday, memory of a loved one that you would like to share with your Church? Just contact Flaye Stahl 665-2575 to request that flowers be put on the altar on a specific Sunday. In the bulletin your name will be shown as the donor and what occasion you are commemorating. After the service take the flowers with you. Mr. Highland who provides the flowers will bill you \$30.00 and pay him directly.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD! Notes from the Music Director

Happy Mother's Day

I would like to extend a very special thank you to our Senior Choir, Youth Choir, and Handbell Choir for the outstanding job they did at our Easter Sunday Service. They worked very hard, and it was evident in their performances. They spend many hours preparing, and I am truly grateful for their dedication to the groups, and to our church. THANK YOU.

Senior Choir

This is just a rehearsal reminder for those who participate in the Senior Choir. Be sure to mark your calendars with the following rehearsals. The full rehearsal schedule is also posted on the music bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

Rehearsals

Thursday May 6th	No Rehearsal!	
Thursday May 13th	7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	in the Sunday School Room
Thursday May 20th	7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	in the Sunday School Room
Thursday May 27th	7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	in the Sunday School Room

Penataquit Handbell Choir

This is just a rehearsal reminder for those who participate in the Handbell Choir. Be sure to mark your calendars with the following rehearsals. The full rehearsal schedule is also posted on the music bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

Rehearsals

Sunday May 16th	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	in the West Room
Sunday May 23	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	in the West Room
Performance:		
Sunday May 30 th	10:00 a.m. Service – 9:15 a.m. rehearsal	in the Sanctuary

Youth Choir

This is just a rehearsal reminder for the children and parents who participate in the Youth Choir. Be sure to mark your calendars with the following rehearsals. The full rehearsal schedule is also posted on the music bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

Rehearsals

Sunday May 2nd	11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	in the Sanctuary
Sunday May 30 th	11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	in the Sanctuary
Performance:		
Sunday May 9 th	10:00 a.m. Mother's Day Service – 9:00 a.m. rehearsal	in the Sanctuary

TEAR OFF AND RETURN

Remembering Our Deceased Veterans

On Memorial Day Sunday, May 30, we will be once again be reading the names of deceased veterans. If you have any name(s) to submit, please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office or email the church office at UMCBS@aol.com with the information. Please print clearly. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NAMES IS MAY 23.

Please remember the following deceased veterans on May 30:

BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Lorraine DiGenaro, Jessica Wood
May 2 Shaylin Kane, Andrew Navratil
May 5 Kwasi Enin
May 9 Robert Hogan, Kevin McElroy,
Christopher Madeska
May 10 Ellie Barbieri, Samuel Owusu
May 12 Carmen Berka, Kaitlyn DiPietro
May 16 Jean Carr, Sean Tomlinson,
Aurora Costales
May 18 Arvind Chandran
May 19 Deirdrea Renwick
May 26 Richard Berka, Catherine Bernard

May 29 Donald Conste

ANNIVERSARIES

May 3 Floyd & Donna Lechner
May 9 Ed & Joyce Stein
May 10 Bill & Shirley Giesler
May 17 Frederich & Adwoa Ababio
May 18 Richard & Carmen Berka
May 20 Roy & Ellen Fager
May 28 Steven & Mary Hemmerle

OTHER DATES & TIMES TO REMEMBER

SOUP KITCHEN:
Thursday – 4:30 p.m.

THIRFT SHOP:
Wednesday: 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Electrician & Handyman Services



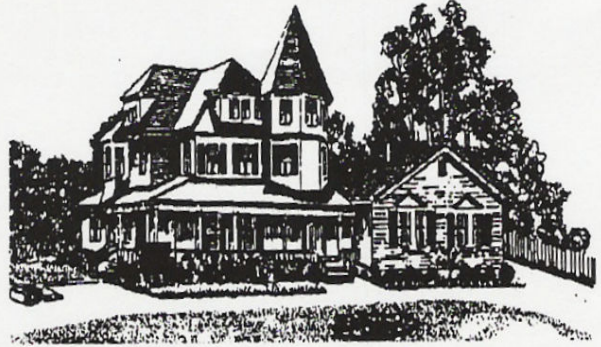
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