



Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

January 2011

From the Pastor

Welcome to the year 2011! As we begin a new year, we are celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord on January 6th. The word *epiphany* comes from the Greek and means *manifestation* or *appearance*. God's glory appeared to the world, and now God is manifested to humankind in the form of his Son, Jesus Christ. Whenever we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, we encounter the wise men from the East and their gifts for the baby Jesus; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Based on the example of their gifts we give each other gifts at Christmas.

Now, I would like to share a story about gifts. Before Europeans landed in this country, Native Americans had a tradition. They circulated the sacred peace pipe among the local tribes. It would stay in a certain cabin for a while, but sooner or later it should be given away again. When Europeans came, they were invited to share the sacred pipe, as was the custom. A leader of the European settlers immediately took the sacred pipe and put it on the shelf in his cabin. There it stayed and stayed and stayed.

After a long time, the Native Americans came to visit. It was obvious that they expected something. Finally, a translator explained that the settler should offer them a smoke and give them the pipe. The European settler was upset, saying, "They gave me the pipe. Now, do they want me to give it back to them?" Both the Native Americans and the European settlers did not understand each other. Clearly the Native Americans did not understand private property, and the term *Indian-giver* was coined.

We have inherited the European understanding of gifts. We keep gifts that we receive. However, I would say that Jesus is more like the Native Americans in the story. Jesus could be called an Indian-giver, in that he wanted gifts to circulate, to keep on giving. He wants us also to be Indian-givers. He has given us a lot of blessings, and he wants us to share them with our neighbors.

Looking back upon my ministry at our church, I strongly feel it is God's blessing that you and I have done ministry harmoniously, respecting each other and supporting each other. Now, God wants us to circulate the blessing to our neighbors by serving and inviting them to our church.

Let us remind ourselves that like Jesus, we are Indian-givers who circulate gifts. Let us remember how much God has blessed us and how much Jesus Christ has sacrificed himself for us. We have received a lot of blessings from God. Now, God wants us to circulate them to our neighbors. We can keep the gifts that we received this Christmas, but we share the blessings of God with our neighbors. Like our God we are Indian-givers.

Happy New Year and Happy Epiphany!

Sungmu Lee

DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcas Circle meets the first Tuesday of the month at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome. The Hostesses for January 4th are Eleanor Bisso and Clara Trotta. Our plans for this month include the “Bakeless” Bake Sale and discussions on future projects.

RECEIVING THE SPIRE

Current and back issues of the Spire are available on the Church website at www.bayshoreumc.org/spire. If you find electronic distribution more convenient, you can, if you wish, discontinue receiving a mailed copy of the Spire with a request to the Church Office.

THANK-YOU!

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we have shipped gifts to the children of the Head Start program in Rosebud, South Dakota.

RADA KNIVES

Rada knives can be ordered from Donna Lechner 666 7194. Catalogs are available at the church. These make great gifts for all occasions. Profits are turned over to the church.
Donna Lechner

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

"Audrey and Arnie Muzzy's names were inadvertently left off our Church Family Christmas Card. They send their best wishes."

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND

De-greening the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 2nd we will de-green the sanctuary after the Sunday Worship Service. The more help we have the faster it will go. If you have an electrical screwdriver please bring it, also if you don't mind height you can climb a ladder to remove the wreaths and roping. The de-greening should not take long, and everyone is welcome. Thank you for your service.

Lois Fallon, Worship Chair

We are having a meeting of Thrift Shop volunteers on Sunday, January 2nd. Christine Hoff

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

SAVE YOUR COSTUME JEWELRY!

Want to get rid of some Costume Jewelry? Just bring it to the Church and give to Clara Trotta. We sell it on Sunday's in the Fellowship Hall, and the profits go to the Church.

GREETERS ARE NEEDED

Greeters are needed to welcome newcomers and our devoted church members as they enter church. I have been told by some of our present church members that they wanted to become part of our congregation because they were welcomed so warmly when they attended our church.

Our greeters are at the front door and the west entry to greet church members and friends on Sunday mornings from 10:45 until the prelude starts. Then they join their family and friends at their seats for worship.

Consider joining our greeters some Sunday morning. Let me know if you are interested and I will make sure that you get name tags for the Sundays when you are able to serve. You can contact me at church on Sunday morning, e-mail me at AM-Cavalla@aol.com, or call me at 666-5948. If you get the machine, please leave a message telling me how to best contact you.

If this is a way that you feel that you could serve our church, why not give it a try? You really get to know the members of our church family. Alice M. Cavalla

GREENING THE SANCTUARY - THANK YOU TO ALL

Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare for Christmas and decorate the sanctuary. Greening the Sanctuary on Friday, December 3rd was a great night of fellowship. There were 28 people helping. *THANK YOU:* Dot & Matthew Allen, Carmen, Rich, & Dehlia Berka, Catherine & Louis Bernard, Chester & Cheyenne Costales, Michael, Liz, & Michael Estevez, Ellen & Eric Fager, Doreen Gonzales, Marilyn & Greg Goodrich, Chester Hazel, Hyeonjin Kim, Ellen McElroy, Tom Scherer, Eric & Regina Schneider, Flaye Stahl, Diane & Don Timmonee, Barbara Wenham. We enjoyed hanging bows, roping and wreaths. The question of the night was, "How many times did we climb the ladder to hang a wreath???" :)) Donuts and cider were enjoyed by all.

A special thank you to Danny, our music director who decorated the outside front entrance and west entrance of the church with wreaths, roping and bows. Both entrances were beautiful- *THANK YOU DANNY!!* Also thank you to Danny for making the beautiful new bows that were used to decorate the roping on the choir loft.

Eric Fager purchased and donated beautiful wreaths and roping that we used to decorate the inside front and west entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you Eric for donating these and helping us to hang them. Eric also decorates the beautiful Christmas tree you see in the front of the sanctuary. *THANK YOU!!*

The evening was filled with laughter and fun along with hard work. Thank you to everyone. God Bless You.

Lois Fallon, Worship Chair

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Notes from the Music Director



Prayer for the New Year

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen.

Special Thanks

I just want to extend a very special thanks to the Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Youth Choir, and our instrumentalists for the beautiful music they provided for us at our Christmas services. These groups work very hard, and donate their time and talent for the good of our church. I am truly grateful for all their dedication and their efforts. Thank you.

The Senior Choir

Rehearsals:

Thursday January 6th	7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday January 13th	7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday January 20th	7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday January 27th	7:00 pm-8:00 pm

The Penataquit Handbell Choir

Rehearsal:

Sunday January 30th	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the West Room
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The Youth Choir

Rehearsal:

Sunday January 23rd	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the Sanctuary
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Pete Falcon passed into eternal rest
on December 3, 2010.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS:

January 2	Ellen Fager, Evan Nock
January 3	Rashida Charles
January 5	Ally Sullivan
January 4	Shirley Giesler
January 6	Fran Vinas
January 11	Doreen B. Enin
January 12	Don Navratil
January 15	Jacob Sawyer
January 18	Regina Schneider
January 19	Elijah Smith, Anna S. Hoffman
January 20	Nancy Erale
January 21	Kwaku G. Owusu
January 23	David Allen, Michael Falcon
January 24	Adwoa Enin, Michael Renwick, Jr.
January 25	Heather Molaro
January 27	Robert Booy II, Steven Hemmerle, Eric Schneider
January 28	Dee Navratil, Lynda Ruter, Ginger Sullivan
January 29	Jacob Fahey
January 30	Mary Hemmerle

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jan. 3	Samuel and Vida Owusu
Jan. 19	Ebenezer and Doreen Enin
Jan. 21	Norman and Flaye Stahl

OTHER DATES & TIMES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen	Wednesday	12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday - 4:30 p.m.	Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thrift Shop		

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