



Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

March 2011

From the Pastor

I often feel that we live in a society in which science has become idolatrous. Almost all people in modern society influenced by science tend to regard a scientific fact as the most important and authentic source. For example, in the past not many of us ate garlic because of its smell, but as scientists reported that garlic would help us to resist cancer, more people began to eat it. Of course, we value science, but we need to realize that there is something transcending science.

I ask myself, “How many other idols do we modern Christians have besides science?” If you say, “Pastor, I have no idols in my life,” then I can suggest several idol detectors. For example, your checkbook: What is it you invest in most heavily? What do your check stubs teach you about what you worship? Or your calendar: How do you spend your time which could be more precious than your money? When it comes time to rest, or pray to God, or wait on the Lord, what gets in the way? Whatever it is, it is an idol. If you feel that *idol* is too a strong word, then let us call it *something* that prohibits you from being a sincere Christian.

A job that promises security. A house that promises comfort. A portfolio that promises protection. A relationship that promises safety. A position in the community that promises power. A car that promises prestige. All the little idols lined up. And everyone, including me, has his/her own idols.

Did you notice that each of the idols is not a bad thing? The raw material itself is almost never a bad thing. Only that is where the trouble starts when we love it more than God. Things may produce results for a while; they may even produce results for a long while. But talk to someone whose job has just evaporated, or whose marriage has just ended, or whose health has just failed.

As we begin the season of Lent, I would like you and me to remember “we are dust and to dust we shall return.” We can still bow down to those idols. That is one of our choices. We can serve them. Or we can stand up, get rid of them, and seek the living God. Yet, it is our problem that as we choose our God, the food is not so good, and water is hard to come by, and the expectations are ridiculously high. It is a tough choice, but it is our choice which way we will turn: toward the true God or toward the idol?

Choosing the living God who leads us into eternal life but whose way is not always easy to follow? Or choosing the idol that satisfies our desires but cannot save us from our sins? Which one shall we choose? It is a tough choice, but it is our choice, life-and-death choice. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

DORCAS CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Dorcas ladies will be on Tuesday, March 1 at 10am. Our February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Our hostesses will be Yvonne Hazel-Kinia and Millie Kresse. We plan to work on craft items for the Holiday craft fair and service projects for the church. Everyone welcome to attend.

Christine Hoff 665-7237

THRIFT SHOP

Our Thrift Shop is in need of more volunteers. If you could volunteer to help just 3 hours each month it would be most appreciated. The Thrift Shop is open Wednesday 12-3 and Saturday 10-1. Please call the church office (666-7194) and leave your name and phone number with a message that you would be willing to help or write a note saying you will help in the thrift shop, put your name and phone number on it and drop it in the offering plate. Someone will get back to you. THANK YOU for serving our church.

MISSIONS

We will be continuing our shipment to boys in the service. A list of items is included. We send as a box is filled.

Food needed:

- Pumpkin Seeds/Sunflower Seeds
- Beef Jerky/Slim Jims
- Granola, Breakfast, Power Bars
- Trail Mix, Dried fruit, Raisins
- Nuts
- Pop-Tarts
- Cookies
- Coffee (any type)
- Pretzels (no chips)
- Hard Candy, gum, tic tac's

Toiletries:

- Baby powder
- Chap stick, lip balm
- Sun block
- Feminine hygiene products
- Baby Wipes
- Bug spray/Deet
- Toothbrush, paste, soap
- Batteries "AA" & "C"
- Pre-paid phone cards (AT&T & long distance)
- NO GLASS, AEROSOLS OR CHCOLATE

PLEASE USE THIS LIST WHEN YOU SHOP!!

Cards for Easter will be in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays following worship to be sent to shut-ins, military and permanent snowbirds.

A pancake breakfast has been scheduled for Sunday, March 13th at 8:30 a.m. proceeds will be used toward apportionments. Christine Hoff & Vida Owusu

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

THRIFT SHOP RENOVATION

A committee is planning the renovation of the Thrift Shop. We are looking at the removal of accumulation, and then expansion. If you have any thoughts to share, please let us know. Since it's inception, we have raised about \$5,000.00 a year, serviced about 30 needy local families yearly, and donated hundreds of bags of clothing, and household necessities to LICC, EFWA and Big Brothers. We are also looking for more volunteers to help with the storing or staffing the store. Christine Hoff 665-7237

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday March 9th

Wednesday, March 9th is the beginning of Lent. The Ash Wednesday Service will be at 8 PM at the Islip United Methodist Church, 350 Main Street, Islip. Our congregation will worship together with the congregation of the UMC of Islip as we begin our Lenten journey.

Lenten Wednesday Evening Services

During Lent our congregation worships with other Bay Shore Churches every Wednesday evening at 8 PM. Before each Wednesday evening service the hosting church provides a Soup & Sandwich Supper at 7:15 PM. Those of us who have attended these have found the fellowship rewarding and the reverence of the service in neighboring churches uplifting. Won't you join our congregation during Lent and travel to our neighboring churches to worship as we prepare for Easter? Watch for the schedule of the Wednesday Soup & Sandwich Services in the Sunday Bulletin and also on the Yahoo Church e-mail.

Easter Worship

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE, Sunday: April 17th at 10 AM in our sanctuary

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE: Thursday, April 21st at 8 PM in our sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: Friday, April 22nd at 8 PM at the Islip UMC – 350 Main Street, Islip

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE, SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH at 10 AM in our sanctuary

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 9:45 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 AMCavalla@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

EASTER LILIES

The lovely Easter lilies that beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday have a dual purpose: not only do they symbolize God's promise of rebirth, but they also enable us to share this joyous spirit with the sick and shut-ins among our church family. If you would like to provide flowers for these purposes, please fill out the form below and give it to Flaye Stahl (665-2575).

NAME OF DONOR: *(Please print all information)*

DONATED: _____ To the glory of God

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ I will take my plant after Easter

_____ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN APRIL 3! Thank you!

MYF SPONSORED EVENTS

March 13th Movie day during Sunday school, Shrek Forever, snack and juice

On April 10th we plan to have an Easter egg hunt for the younger children details to follow, we will be needing donations of candy and plastic eggs.

On May 15 we will enjoy some video games, wii and board games. Pizza and juice

I would like to thank all that donated to the SS/MYF fund by purchasing calendars. We appreciate your help.

Also thanks to all that donated for “Super Bowl” Sunday, we were able to donate \$45.00 to the soup kitchen here.

Also thank you on behalf of the Sunday school for your generosity collecting for Elaine Williams and family. Your gifts mean so much at this time.

<p>PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY – MARCH 13TH 8:30 – 9:45 A.M. \$5 ADULTS \$3 CHILDREN PROCEEDS TO BE USED TOWARD APPORTIONMENTS</p>

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Notes from the Music Director

Happy Saint Patrick's Day



March 17, 2011

Happy Saint Joseph's Day



March 19, 2011

Special Thanks

On behalf of the Senior Choir, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Dolores and Donald Hoffmann for their faithful service to our church choir. During this past year, both Dolores and Donald have quietly retired from our choir. They were both very active members who rarely missed a church service. The Hoffmann's were wonderful additions to our choir, and their voices will be sorely missed. Dolores devoted 36 years of singing, and Donald devoted 33 years. Thank you both for sharing many years of your talent with our church. We love you!

The Senior Choir

Rehearsals:

Thursday March 3 rd -	7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday March 10 th -	7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday March 17 th -	7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday March 24 th -	7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday March 31 st -	7:00 pm-8:00 pm

The Penataquit Handbell Choir

Rehearsal:

Sunday March 13 th -	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the West Room
Sunday March 27 th -	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the West Room

The Youth Choir

Rehearsal:

Sunday March 6 th -	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the Sanctuary
Sunday March 20 th -	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the Sanctuary

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH

BIRTHDAYS:

March 1 Joseph DiGiovanna, Jeanne Wood
March 2 Jasmine Jones
March 3 Nick DeLuca, Larissa DiPietro,
March 8 Garrett DiPietro
March 15 Jennifer Swetland
March 16 Brian LePrell , Edward Shirley
March 17 Karen LePrell , Katrina Jones, Edward Stein
March 19 Dorothy Miller, Lillian Montemagno
March 20 Mary Wilson
March 24 Delia Berka
March 26 Leslie Owen, Brandon Robinson, Jessica Schmalfuss,
Elizabeth Suda
March 27 Nicholas, Janna & Janel DiGenaro, Joseph Schlamowitz
March 28 Karen Lozano
March 30 Karl Bocchieri, Patti Booy, Paul Burvenich,
James Cameron, Kristin Lechner De Vita

ANNIVERSARIES:

March 8 Gene and Jean Ufer

OTHER DATES & TIMES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen
Thursday - 4:30 p.m.

Thrift Shop
Wednesday 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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United Methodist Church of Bay Shore
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Rev. Sungmu Lee
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