

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

April 2011

From the Pastor

“Christ is risen! Jesus Christ is risen indeed from the dead. Alleluia!” As celebrating Easter, we Christians proclaim the most exciting and joyful message. Jesus fought and won the battle, and there is no more pain, no more loneliness, no more sickness, no more conflict, but only joy with God. What a wonderful story it is!

Then, why do we have a lot of empty seats in the Christian sanctuaries including ours? Why do a number of Protestant churches in North America struggle for the lack of volunteers and financial resources? As soon as we listen to the good news at the church, we go back to the reality that life is very tough: death of beloved ones, divorce, broken relationship, financial hardship, and so on. We live in the world of the good news versus the tough reality.

Approaching the Easter Sunday, I think of what the real message of Easter is. It is not that there is no longer death and defeat. On the contrary, death and defeat remain very much with us. Life is tough. Nevertheless, if I preach, “You will have no more difficulties in your life,” I will be lying to you.

The message of Easter is not that there is no longer death and defeat, but that death and defeat do not have the last word. The message of Easter is not that there are no broken places, but that we can be strong at the broken places. In spite of difficulties in our lives, we have hope with the belief of Easter. In spite of sufferings in our lives, we have hope, because we know that we will overcome with the faith of resurrection.

This is the good news for those who understand and believe that Good Friday is the prelude to Easter. Yet, this cannot be the good news for those impatient modern people who try to get the way to resurrection except through the tomb. The followers of Jesus had to wait for two days, and Thomas should wait for another week to experience the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We may have to wait longer. We may have to wait a life time, but God is never late. In God’s good time we will hear the angels shouting, “Hallelujah! He is risen indeed!” And we will see that the crucified Jesus had become the risen Lord. Until that time, we need to be patient, depending upon God, dedicating ourselves to God’s church, and practicing the love of God in our lives.

Then, we will experience the great joy of Easter not only in the future when we stand in front of God but also in this world right here, right now. In the raising of Jesus, a great battle has been fought and won. And the kingdoms of this world shall be the kingdoms of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and he shall rule forever and ever. Happy Easter!

Sungmu Lee

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Circle will be meeting the first Tuesday in April. Hostesses will be Ellie Bisso and Clara Trotta. We have been working on craft items and service projects (We keep the book population and kitchen clutter in control.) Any and all are invited to join us at 10 a.m. on April 5th. Christine Hoff

THRIFT SHOP

THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE: Please contact your partner prior to the day you are to serve to assure you both will be present. If you cannot serve please change with someone else and let Donna and your partner know of the change.

APRIL

<i>Sat 2</i>	Chester Hazel and Helen Wilson
<i>Wed 6</i>	Flaye Stahl and George Mack
<i>Sat 9</i>	Dot Allen and Barbara Wenham
<i>Wed 13</i>	Chris Hoff and Gil Rivera
<i>Sat 16</i>	Diane Timmoney and Helen Wilson
<i>Wed 20</i>	Flaye Stahl and Tom Scherer
<i>Sat 23</i>	Chester Hazel and Barbara Wenham
<i>Wed 27</i>	Chris Hoff and George Mack
<i>Sat 30</i>	Dot Allen and Helen Wilson

MISSIONS

During the month of April, Missions will be holding a food drive to benefit the local Bay Shore Food Pantry, which is run by the Interfaith Council of our Bay Shore Churches. It will run from April 3rd to the 17th, so that they can distribute before Easter. A list of suggested items is posted in Fellowship Hall.

We will also have Easter cards for the shut ins and faraway friends.

At present, we are not shipping any boxes to military people as we have no names.

On Sunday, May 1st, we are hosting the coffee hour with a baby shower for babies born to women at Rikers and Bedford Hills. Most of these women can not afford clothing for the newborn. Only new clothing can be accepted, no formula or disposable diapers.

We had our semi-annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 13, raising approximately \$350 to be used toward apportionments. THANKS to our great kitchen staff, headed by Eric Schneider and his volunteers in the kitchen and the dining hall for making it a success. Christine Hoff & Vida Owusu

ORAL HISTORY BOOKLET

The Worship Committee and Dorcas Circle are combining their efforts to publish a book/booklet with oral histories from congregation members. We are asking everyone with a story to tell of any length, a paragraph, a page or several pages to commit this story to print or tape. If you have photos we will try to utilize these also.

Please contact us if you have a story to tell and would like to participate:

Lois Fallon-

Phone: 666-4966, email: nearthesea45@aol.com

Christine Hoff-

Phone: 665-7237, email: chof65@hotmail.com

Church office: Phone: 666-7194, email: umbs@aol.com

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

Below is the April schedule for the Wednesday evening Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper and Services.

DATE	HOST CHURCH	PREACHER
April 6	First Congregational 1860 Union Blvd. Bay Shore	Pastor Gerth
April 13	First Baptist Church 175 Second Avenue, Bay Shore	Pastor Robinson

Soup & Sandwich Supper at 7:15 followed by Worship at 8 p.m.

Everyone is invited, come and join these community suppers and worship with our neighboring churches during Lent.

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. We will also accept men's costume jewelry: tie-tacs, cufflinks, etc. We are an equal opportunity shop!

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 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

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

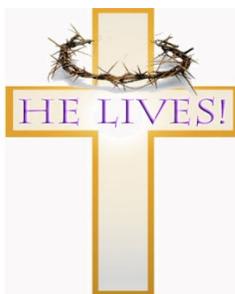
_____ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in

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

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

Notes from the Music Director

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Blessed Easter!



The Senior Choir

Rehearsals:

Thursday April 7 th -	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Thursday April 14 th -	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Sunday April 17 th -	11:15 am - 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary
Thursday April 21 st -	Maunder Thursday Service- rehearse at 7:00 pm
Thursday April 28 th -	No Rehearsal

The Penataquit Handbell Choir

Rehearsal:

Sunday April 10 th -	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the West Room
Sunday April 17 th -	11:15 am-12:30 pm	in the Sanctuary

Performances:

Sunday April 10 th -	9:15 am rehearsal- "When Jesus Wept"
Sunday April 17 th -	9:15 am rehearsal- "Palm Sunday Processional"
Sunday April 24 th -	9:15am rehearsal- Easter Sunday

The Youth Choir

Rehearsal:

Sunday April 3 rd -	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the Sanctuary
Sunday April 17 th -	11:15 am-11:45 am	in the Sanctuary

Performances:

Sunday April 17 th -	Palm Sunday Service- 9:15 am rehearsal
Sunday April 24 th -	Easter Sunday Service- 9:15 am rehearsal

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR APRIL

BIRTHDAYS:

April 1 Nicolle Costa
April 2 Dale Dowd, Bud Ruter
April 3 Sean Sawyer
April 4 Randall Kane, Diane Stead
April 7 Susan Arrigo
April 8 Maureen Aromi, Barbara Witherspoon
April 9 Kevin Sharfenberg
April 11 Alexandra Mayer, Kay Mc Cown
April 12 Peter Hoffman
April 13 James Markey, Tim Stein
April 14 Donald Conste
April 15 Nancy Stopenhagen
April 18 Hannah Gonzalez, Gene Ufer
April 19 Mathew Allen, Gail Moore
April 22 Gina Marie Biondolillo
April 23 George Mack, Anyel Maritza Pinto
April 24 Juliana Fenton
April 26 Brian Hoffmann, Stephen Munoz, Marjorie Myers
April 27 Beth DeCarbo, Arnold Muzzy, Richard O'Sullivan
April 28 Peggy Figliuolo, Robert Nickels, Jupiter Perez, Pat Riedel
April 29 Robert Warren, Halley Low
April 30 Jean Finfrock

ANNIVERSARIES:

April 4 Joseph & Eileen DiGiovanna
April 15 Michael & Susan Arrigo
April 26 Charles & Jean Finfrock
April 27 Michael & Lilyan Harrington, Jupiter & Otila Perez

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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