



Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

January 2012

Welcome to the year 2012! As we begin another new year, I would like to share one of my favorite books in the bible. That is Ecclesiastes. Why do I like it? Because I believe Ecclesiastes is full of wisdom useful for human life and helpful for understanding the relationship between God and humans.

I think the author was an old man who looked over every aspect of life, trying to know what endures and what lasts. Here is the way he put it: "I considered all that my hands had done, and I realized all was vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun."

In the words of Ecclesiastes, all of our work, despite our best efforts, is mostly vanity. The writer of Ecclesiastes says, "I build, I made great, I acquired, and I gathered." He did everything that we have done. And yet, all of this doing is mere illusion. It all goes down into death. There is nothing new under the sun.

We may think that Ecclesiastes would say work is pointless, and therefore, should be avoided. But that is not true. The writer of Ecclesiastes urges enthusiastic, vigorous engagement in work, because work is one of the gracious things God gives us to do in this world. The results of our work may not last forever, but in the meantime, our work is a joyous active creation.

Do you want to live a happy life in 2012? Then, listen carefully to the book of Ecclesiastes. As we begin a new year, I recommend you to read the entire book (only 12 chapters!), remembering the following: When you set human work as the ultimate goal in your life, it will become like chasing the wind. Yet, if you regard it as God-given gift, then you can enjoy human work itself.

Let us do our best, but not seeking results in the year 2012. Then, we can enjoy the process of the toil. I pray that in the coming year, you and I will have the wisdom of Ecclesiastes and live a happy life. Happy New Year!

Sungmu Lee

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Circle will not meet in January and February.

Are you missing one of your dishes or trays? The kitchen counters have an array of items to be claimed. Periodically these abandoned things are sent to the Thrift Shop and sold.

JANUARY MISSIONS

For another year, the congregation has answered the call of mission. We have extended ourselves to the people of our community, our nation and the world, through the variety of programs in the church. The Missions Committee wishes to thank everyone for their support.

Five boxes of gifts were shipped to South Dakota for the Angel children. Hats, mittens, gloves, etc were given to Xmas dinner attendees, Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and clients of Long Island Council of Churches.

Sunday, January 15 is our first special Sunday offering. It is called Human Relations Sunday and the offering is used to work for solutions of injustice, hunger, homelessness and other social ills.

Vida Owusu
Christine Hoff

PENNIES FOR PRESERVATION

The collection for November 2011 was \$55.00. I know that everyone is asking for your funds right now, but do you think that we could exceed that in December? For those of you who don't have extra change, a prayer for our church would be most acceptable.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Thank you everyone who helped green the sanctuary on December 2nd; we worked from 6 to 9 p.m. THANK YOU: Pastor Lee, Eric & Regina Schneider, Catherine & Louis Bernard, Diane & Don Timoney, Greg & Marilyn Goodrich, Eric Fager, Flaye Stahl, Dot Allen, Delia Berka, Vida, Junior & Yaa Owusu, Tom Scherer, Palmer, Christopher & David Tucciarone, and Ed Shirley. May God Bless you! Thank you, Lois Fallon Worship Chairperson

REQUEST FOR HELP WITH JEWELRY TABLE

Clara Trotta has requested help with the Jewelry Table. She is no longer able to take on this task, and is requesting assistance with it. Please see her after Church if you would like to help out.

HOW LUCKY WE ARE!

How lucky we are to be blessed with Danny our wonderful music director, a senior and junior choir with beautiful voices, and talented instrumentalists. A very special thank you to all who gave of their time preparing the beautiful music for our Christmas worship services. Our congregation appreciates you and thanks you for the spectacular Christmas music. May God Bless You.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Notes from the Music Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012!

A Special Thank You!

I would like to extend a special thank you to our Chamber Choir, Penataquit Handbell Choir, Youth Choir, Soloists, and Instrumentalists who made our Christmas services truly special. Our music groups at UMCBS have been working very hard preparing for our Christmas services since September, and they all did a remarkable job. I am truly grateful to work with such dedicated, hardworking, and talented individuals. Thank you for sharing your gifts with our church!

Hymn Suggestions

Just a reminder.....I have a sign-up sheet on the music board in Fellowship Hall, for anyone to request a favorite hymn to be sung at our Sunday services. This hymn will be sung when prayer requests are being collected. You may suggest a hymn to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, as a memorial, or for any reason at all. Just write your special hymn next to the corresponding date, and I will do my best to accommodate your request. Thanks!

Chamber Choir

During the month of January, our Chamber Choir will be on hiatus. Many of our members will be away vacationing, so we will take a small break, and will return singing on Sunday February 5th. Our first rehearsal of the season will be on Thursday February 2nd, at 7:00pm, in the Sunday School Room.

New Members

Anyone wishing to join any of our music groups, the Chamber Choir, the Penataquit Handbell Choir, and the Youth Choir, please see me to discuss involvement. New members are always welcomed. It would nice to see some new faces among us!

DE-GREENING THE CHURCH

Immediately after Worship on January 8th, we will be de-greening the Church. Hope you all can stay for a few minutes to help – many hands make quick work! Thank you.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

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|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 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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