



Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

June 2012

Welcome to the month of June! Our Lay Delegates, Christine Hoff and Millie Kresse, and I will be attending the Annual Conference from June 6th to 9th. There will be a lot of sessions including the ceremonies of the retirement and the ordination. The majority of this year's retirees are white males, while it is hard to find them among the candidates for the ordination. This has been a tendency at our Annual Conference during the past 15 years.

The majority in the New York Annual Conference are the Anglo-American churches, most of which want to have white male pastors. Yet, it is our reality that there have been much less white male candidates to the ordained ministry than white male retirees. As a result, more churches have female or racial minority pastors than before. As time goes by, we will have more chances to have female pastors, or cross-cultural appointments, or both female and cross racial appointments. Now, we have choices: to raise our children to be pastors or to accept female/racial minority pastors as ours.

What is worse, the Christian message has become unpopular to modern culture. It became much less popular to go to church on Sunday than to go to the Yankee Stadium or to go on a picnic. Our values stand on the side of the secular culture, rather than on the side of the gospel. Protestantism in North America is in crisis. It is time for us to reconsider our sense of value and teach our children with Christian faith. If not, the situation will be worse in the American Protestant Church in ten years or twenty years.

We have been saved by the grace of God, which is the privilege Christians have. What would you pay for it? When I ask the question, I realize that this is not a popular one. However, it is true that we as Christians have responsibilities. We tend to care for the body but neglect our care for the spirit. For example, parents fear disease for their children more than their prejudices. Food, clothes, and shelter are important to us, but we forget the spirit within.

Jesus says, "Do not be afraid of people who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, you should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell" (Matthew 10:28). Our real danger lies in betraying the truth, because that can kill both body and soul. That is why we are sent into the world, armed with truth and love, to confront the world at the very places where the gospel is being distorted, and to stand up to anyone who opposes or oppresses the message of Jesus Christ. We should stand firm to them, whatever forms they take. Amen.

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas ladies will be having their annual June luncheon on Monday, June 4th at noon. All women of the church are invited to attend. During May, we decorated and filled lunch bags for the Helping Hands summer program. Children attending summer programs in the area benefit from the program. Our fall meeting will be on Monday, September 10th at 10am.

Christine Hoff 631-665-7237

PLANET GREEN

Our church has been involved in an E-waste recycling program for about 5 years. We have received an email with new items to be added to the list.

We can recycle inkjet cartridges, Ipods, MP3 players, cell phones, pagers, digital and video cameras and camcorders, GPS and radar detectors, PDAs, mobile hot spots, Ipads and tablets, calculators, video game consoles and handhelds, eBook readers, video games and accessories.

I have posted a list in Fellowship Hall.

Boxes for items are located in the Fellowship Hall and near the church office.

In addition to keeping these items out of the local landfills, the church receives money for the items sent in. Any questions, please ask Christine Hoff, 631-665-7237

SOUP KITCHEN SCHEDULE

JUNE

7	Diane Timmone & Debbie Palmieri
14	Eileen & Joe DiGiovanna & Kim Neary
21	Hyeonjin Kim & Amy Garrett
28	Flaye Stahl & Bill Suda

JULY

5	Eileen & Joe DiGiovanna & Bill Suda
12	Diane Timmone & Kim Neary
19	Flaye Stahl & Amy Garrett
26	Hyeonjin Kim & Debbie Palmieri

AUGUST

2	Eileen & Joe DiGiovanna
9	Hyeonjin Kim & Bill Suda
16	Diane Timmone & Debbie Palmieri
23	Flaye Stahl & Kim Neary
30	Eileen & Joe DiGiovanna & Erika Frohn

THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

JUNE

Sat 2	Helen Wilson and Vernice Carter
Wed 6	Flaye Stahl and Diane Timmone
Sat 9	Eileen DiGiovanna and George Mack
Wed 13	Pat Abrams and Chris Hoff
Sat 16	Chester Hazel and Barbara Wenham
Wed 20	Debbie Williams and Diane Timmone
Sat 23	Eileen DiGiovanna and Dot Allen
Wed 27	Tom Scherer and Chris Hoff

JULY

Wed 4	Closed for Holiday
Sat 7	Dot Allen and Helen Wilson
Wed 11	Eileen DiGiovanna and Tom Scherer
Sat 14	Chester Hazel and Barbara Wenham
Wed 18	George Mack and Chris Hoff
Sat 21	Vernice Carter and Helen Wilson
Wed 25	Debbie Williams and Diane Timmone
Sat 28	Eileen DiGiovanna and Flaye Stahl

AUGUST

Wed 1	Tom Scherer and George Mack
Sat 4	Dot Allen and Barbara Wenham
Wed 8	Diane Timmone and Pat Abrams
Sat 11	Chester Hazel and Helen Wilson
Wed 15	Flaye Stahl and Debbie Williams
Sat 18	Vernice Carter and Eileen DiGiovanna
Wed 22	Tom Scherer and George Mack
Sat 25	Dot Allen and Chester Hazel
Wed 29	Diane Timmone and Chris Hoff

THANK YOU TO OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR, DANIEL CAFIERO

A special thank you to Danny who provided the congregation with beautiful music for our Good Friday Service and Easter Sunday. Good Friday our sanctuary was filled with people from the Islip UMC and our congregation. Everyone was in awe of the hymns & music provided by the choir, the bell players, and the instrumentalists. The Proclamation of the Passion Story from "Song of the Shadows" made this service solemn and reverent on Good Friday evening. If you were unable to be there please see me for a CD (made by Marvin Allen) of the service.

Easter Sunday our sanctuary was filled, everyone appreciated the beautiful hymns and music that brought us such joy! We are thankful for Danny and his ability to provide us with outside instrumentalists and also singers to supplement the beautiful singing of our choir. We are so grateful to have Danny and are thankful for the time he spends preparing for each service to make it special. Thank you also to the choir members, and bell players who spent many hours preparing for these two services.

If you would like a CD of our Easter Service please see me. Marvin Allen provides CDs of every Sunday service. If you are ever sick and unable to attend church please let me know and Marvin and I will be sure to get you a CD. May God Bless You, Lois Fallon Worship Chairperson

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!**Notes from the Music Director****Wishing Everyone a Happy Father's Day!****Summer Music**

Before you know it, summer will be here, and our music groups will take the summer months off. So, I am asking for volunteers who would like to help "supply" our music for the summer months. I will need volunteers for the Special Music, and for the Offertory from Sunday **July 8th**- Sunday **September 2nd**. You can sing a solo, duet, perform in a group, play an instrument....whatever you want. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out, and what date(s) you will be available. Please choose a song appropriate for church, and preferably something you know. I will not have time over the summer to teach you a song, and we will have limited rehearsal time. So, please go with something already in your repertoire. Many thanks for your help!

Please Join Us...

On Sunday July 1st, we will have an all Patriotic Music Service in honor of Independence Day. We will sing many of your favorite hymns, "America, the Beautiful", "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "God Bless, America", and we will end the service with "Stars and Stripes Forever", featuring our flute player and drummer from last year. Hope you can all join us for an inspirational service.

Chamber Choir**Rehearsals:**

Thursday June 7 th -	7:00pm -8:00pm	in the Sunday School Room
Thursday June 14 th -	7:00pm -8:00pm	in the Sunday School Room
Thursday June 21 st -	7:00pm -8:00pm	in the Sunday School Room

Youth Choir**Rehearsals:**

Sunday June 3 rd -	11:15am – 12:00pm	in the Sanctuary
Sunday June 10 th -	11:15am – 12:00pm	in the Sanctuary
Sunday June 17 th -	9:15am rehearsal	for Father's Day Service

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July 3 Carol Moore
July 4 Abena Amoako-Ababio
July 8 Richard Berka, Caitlyn McElroy
July 9 James Erale
July 10 Jean Ufer
July 11 Riana Kane
July 12 Helen Wilson, Tom Wilson
July 14 Christopher Swetland, Brianna Tucciarone
July 18 Cynthia Conste, Sean Wilson
July 20 Michael Weick
July 21 Kevin Ryan, Tyler Seyda
July 22 Sarah Elizabeth Kirkup, Stephanie Nock, Herbert VanNostrand,
Kwaku Amoako-Ababio
July 23 John Kresse III, Robyn Schwartz, Diane Timmonee
July 24 Corrine Conste
July 26 Alexander DeVita
July 27 Geoffrey Lawther
July 30 Timothy Sullivan
July 31 Kailey Dowd, Harold Owen

August 1 Charles Finfrock
August 2 Wayna Beaudrie
August 3 McKinley Seyda
August 5 William Giesler
August 6 Michael Burvenich
August 8 Megan Renwick, Bill Scharfenberg
August 9 Coralie Guittard, Charles Mayer
August 10 Eleanor Bisso
August 11 Ben Klimpel, Scott Owen
August 15 Linda Bullock
August 16 William Moore
August 20 Jim Cooper, Ebenezer Enin, Susan Yost
August 25 Kim DiGiovanna, Chris Sawyer
August 26 Michael Harrington, Michael Renwick, Sr., Pansy Tomlinson
August 29 Charles Mayer, Jr. Harold Swetland
August 30 Anthony Seabrooks
August 31 Elizabeth Weick

ANNIVERSARIES

July 12 Benjamin and Carol Langstroth
July 15 McKinley and Kerry Seyda
July 22 Richard and Pat Riedel
July 23 William and Gail Moore
July 26 Donald and Diane Timmonee
July 28 Kevin and Ellen McElroy
July 30 George and Betty Mack

LOAN AND GRANT FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As you probably know, New Beginnings Preschool, Inc. a commercial business that rented space in our Educational Wing for many years, is moving to a new location in West islip at the end of June. In the long term, the Day Care center currently operated by the Church and the Preschool we will open in September should more than fill the financial gap created by New Beginnings' departure. However, just like any person who has ever given up a steady paycheck in the course of starting their own business, we need financial support in the short term. Our Annual Conference (that is, the association of other United Methodist Churches in the New York metro area) maintains a loan and grant fund for the purpose of assisting local Churches in sustaining and growing their ministries. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Adrienne Brewington, who strongly supports our decision to operate our own Early Childhood programs, recently recommended we seek financial support from this source to help sustain our Church during the startup period of our Day Care and Preschool.

On April 15th, the Finance Committee of our Church recommended to the Church Council that we seek a loan and grant from the Annual Conference. After discussion of the circumstances, the Church Council approved this recommendation without a single dissenting vote. The Council also directed that an announcement and justification of this decision be made at Service, on the email list, and in the Spire.

The Church has submitted an application for a \$50,000 loan, which can be paid back in as long a period as 10 years, and a \$4,000 grant, which does not have to be repaid at all. Although the loan carries an official 7.5% interest rate, the grant (which is normally only available to loan recipients and which can be applied for every year) more than covers the interest so in one way this can be considered as an interest free loan.

While some of the loan will be used to support our Day Care and Preschool during their startup periods, more than half the loan (\$30,000) will be used to replace income lost by the departure of New Beginnings. The loan gives us more than a year to grow the Early Childhood programs: first to the point where they are self sustaining, and then to the point where they replace the New Beginnings income plus cover the loan payments. At present we are more than halfway to the first goal of a self sustaining program. This second goal of about \$37,000 per year can be reached at just 25% of full capacity; that is, 25% of our current Day Care licensed capacity plus 25% of the current enrollment of New Beginnings. This seems to be a perfectly reasonable and attainable goal for the next year of our Early Childhood programs.

The third goal is the long term survival and revival of our beloved Church. Although our Worship attendance has grown 20% in the last 5 years, all you have to do is look around the church buildings to see all the deferred maintenance. Further, we have critical ministerial needs such as paying our full apportionment and supporting our Youth Programs that will only be realized with sufficient funding. At full capacity our Early Childhood program could provide this Church more than \$150,000 per year to use in God's Service, and that's not a trivial change from our present financial circumstances. Additionally, although our Early Childhood program will be nondenominational and open to all in our community, we will take appropriate opportunities to invite families who are seeking a faith home to consider our Church.

Every member of the Church Council and the Finance Committee has copies of the loan and grant applications. There are no secrets in these documents and I think more than a little good news for the future of our Church. Please feel free to ask me or any other member of the Church Council or Finance Committee for a copy if you want to dig through its 19 pages. Like any document of such length and complexity, there are undoubtedly minor mistakes; anyone who first brings one to my attention will win table service from me at an upcoming Coffee Hour.

As you know, our Church has gone through quite a few changes in the past few months. The challenges have come hard and fast and the members of this Church that you elected to take on the responsibilities of Service have worked to make the best decisions possible. Your Christian brothers and sisters have done a tremendous amount of work for the Church in a short period of time. They have managed to accomplish this in between keeping their jobs and raising their young (and not so young) children and caring for elderly and infirm family members. People have labored early in the morning and long past midnight, lost more than a little sleep, and prayed a lot. Was there time to discuss every option in every possible way in every possible forum? No, but decisions were made in accordance with the Book of Discipline that sets down the rules of our denomination, in consonance with Christian principles, and because those making them were convinced that they were vital for the long term survival of our Church.

During our decision making process there were a lot of frank discussions in open and announced committee meetings as well as a lot of discussion between meetings. Anyone who was willing to offer their ideas and view in a loving and Christian manner was and will continue to be welcomed in these deliberations.

Was complete consensus obtained? No, unfortunately that ideal is not always possible. In the years I have been a member of this Church there have been times when I disagree with the results of a deliberation; (frankly, there have been a few times when I was really upset by the result of a deliberation) but I have always tried to remember that this is God's Church we are stewards of, it is God's work we are here to do, and it is God's commandment for us to love each other and work together.

This Church has lasted through twelve wars (starting with the War of 1812), the hurricane of 1938 and about 30 others, the Great Depression and sixteen other national financial crises including the one we are in right now, and three fires in five years: 1964, 1965, and 1969. How did our congregation survive all this? Because ordinary people like you and I chose to answer God's call and support this small corner of His universal church. I would challenge each and every one of you to remember our great commissions, to accept the decisions that have been made, and to continue to serve our Church with your full heart and mind and spirit and gifts and Service and witness. We need you more than ever as we face the challenges of the next couple of years.

Thank you for your support and please continue to pray for our Church.

Tom Wilson

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The SPIRE June 2012