

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

September 2012

I hope you have had a good summer. During the summer my niece and her family visited us, and we went to Walker's park near the parsonage. The 4 year old daughter of my niece said, "Look at me, grandpa. See how high I can swing." It was a voice that rose high at the playground. Yet, in its words was a whole view of life shared by most of us, children or adults. "Look at me. See how high I can go."

Everyone wants to go high and sits in the high position. In the bible, however, Jesus often points us in another direction. We have the world going in one direction and Jesus going in another. We want to take a place of honor at a dinner party, but Jesus tells us to take a lowest place. Counter-cultural!

No boundaries are drawn in human life more clearly than around the dinner table. To admit a person to a table with you is to admit him/her as a full, equal human being, just like you. Something happens when people sit next to one another at a table. A bond is formed, community, communion.

If we are Christians, and if we are Jesus' followers, we must eat and drink as he ate and drank. When we join Jesus at his table, we are required to rethink our goals and our ambitions. In this culture we are taught to desire to sit at the head table. However, Jesus, at the table, reforms our desires and teaches us another way of being together. If we are to be at the table with Jesus, then we must be there on his terms.

For me, as a pastor, one of the great joys is the Lord's Supper. The highlight for me is when you come forward and kneel at the rail, as if you were seeking a gift. As each of you receives the piece of bread and a cup, for me that is a holy moment. Some of us are able, accomplished people, and some of us are not. Some of us have our achievements, and some of us do not. Some of us are financially secure, and some of us are not.

Yet at the Lord's Supper, we are the same, kneeling and receiving the same elements, regardless of how much we have achieved or possessed. We are equal to each other. I think that is a holy moment and a metaphor for how life should be lived under God. What is better, Christ comes to us at the Lord's Supper. He puts bread in our empty hands. He fills us with food for the abundant life. Then, he urges us to go and invite others to his great banquet.

As we begin the autumn, let us try to attend the worship service as often as possible. We celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month, September 2nd. Let us come to worship, experience the presence of Jesus Christ at the Lord's Table, and share the love as sisters and brothers in Christ. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Circle's meeting for September is Monday, the tenth at 10am.

There will be a time for biblical study, with a work session and business meeting to follow. Hostesses will be Christine Hoff and Millie Kresse.

All women are welcome.

REPORT ON NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In early June we attended a four day session of the New York Annual Conference at Hostra. During this annual meeting, we worship, study, and debate issues and set up a budget for the next year.

We delivered our 24 Health kits (3771 kits collected) and 2 bags of baby clothes for the Women's Advocate Ministry

For the Bible study a storytelling format was used, with young children as the audience. They used the Parable of the Good Samaritan, with small group discussions following.

For the legislative sessions, I went to sections 5, which looks at Health Insurance and the budget. Both hot issues, health costs keep going up. They have cut the total budget, but because NYAC is also merging 4 churches into 2 and discontinued 6 congregations, the amount of apportionments continues to rise. Millie attended Section 3, Ministries of Advocacy, centering on minority ministries.

Despite the closing of the small rural churches, a charter was given to a new church in Manhattan, Flushing Chinese UMC.

Collections were taken for Black College fund, \$4578; Women's Advocate Ministry, \$4569. Imagine No Malaria Fund, \$182,787 and Ministerial Education Fund, \$5223.

We celebrated the retirement of pastors and the commissioning and ordination of new pastors.

Saturday has been set aside for a program designed to attract young people. This year they were raising funds to wipe out malaria by, the program involved transformers, fast music and the children loved it. And a lot of money was raised!

The Conference went very smoothly, weather was perfect. A great ending for Bishop Jeremiah Park as he departs New York, Connecticut.

Christine Hoff
Millie Kresse
Lay Delegates to NYAC

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Notes from the Music Director

Sing A Joyful Song

Bay Shore United Methodist Music Ministry extends an invitation to all interested singers and ringers to join one of our choirs.

Rehearsal times are as follows:

Chamber Choir

Thursdays at 7:00 PM

Youth Choir

Sundays at 11:15 AM

Penataquit Handbell Choir

Sundays at 11:15 AM

New members are welcome! Call Danny Cafiero at 748-5829 or email DCAF31@aol.com for more information

Save the Date!

Sunday December 2nd, at 4:00 PM, Bay Shore United Methodist Church will host an “Advent and Christmas Music Concert”. This concert will benefit the music ministry at UMCBS. Our Chamber Choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, along with soloists and instrumentalists, will perform music to usher in the Advent and Christmas seasons! Mark your calendars now. Tickets go on sale in October.

RALLY DAY PICNIC

Our Rally Day Pot Luck Picnic and Barbeque will be held on the Church lawn after Service on September 9th. Hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, paper goods, and cake will be provided. Each Family is invited to bring a side dish or beverage to share.

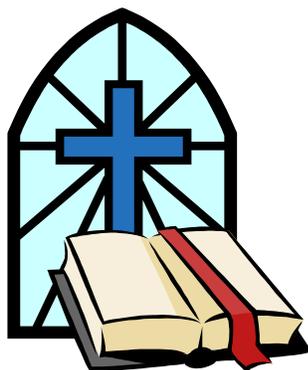
The cost is \$6.00 per family. You can pay in advance or at the door. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office at 666-7194 by Thursday, September 6th so we know how many people to buy for.

Come and enjoy the summer weather, our beautiful front lawn, and your Church Family. Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by the Men's Club

LOOKING AHEAD....

A Pot Luck Luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, October 28th. This Pot Luck Luncheon will be organized by the Missions Committee, please sign up in Fellowship Hall to bring a dish.
MISSIONS COMMITTEE



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