

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

September 2013

An active member of our church asked, “Pastor, does God want us to be happy?” I answered, “Yes, of course!” She asked again, “Then, does God want us to be rich?” Taking a moment, I said, “Not really!”

What do you think? If you have been influenced by the so called *health and wealth theology*, you would disagree with me. “Those who obey God are blessed with material rewards, and those who do not are condemned to poverty.” I do believe that God will not stand this theology, and that Jesus’ teaching is not based on it.

Once upon a time, there were two brothers who loved each other. Let us say their names are Tom and John. Because of a drought of the year, they had a bad harvest. One day Tom said to his wife, “I am worried about my brother and his family. Since we had a bad harvest this year, they may not have enough to eat.” Although Tom did not have a good harvest, either, he went to his barn, took several bags of grain, and carried them into his younger brother’s barn.

Next morning, Tom found something strange. He surely took several bags of grain from his barn, but there was the same number of grain bags. He mumbled, “It is weird.” As it was getting dark, Tom took some bags and put them in John’s barn again. Yet, next morning he found the same thing happened. He said, “I certainly took some bags out of my barn. What happened?”

At this time, he waited until midnight and again, he took several bags out of his barn. While going to John’s barn, he bumped against someone on a bridge and spilled all the grains. He shouted, “Who is this?” The other person also shouted, “Who is this? ... Tom?” It was his younger brother, John. Now, Tom knew what had happened in his barn. His younger brother John was also worried about Tom’s family and carried several bags of grain into his barn. Although they spilled the grains, they were happy to know how much they loved each other.

Next morning the two brothers came to the bridge where they bumped. While they were cleaning up the spilled grains, they found something shining. It was a good size of a golden bowl. Silence was kept for a while. They thought by themselves, “Who’s going to have this shining golden bowl. If my brother were not here, I could have it and become rich. I hate my brother.” Another moment had passed. Suddenly, Tom picked up the golden bowl and threw it away. Then, Tom and John smiled at each other. John knew why his brother threw it away. The love of the family is more important and more precious than the abundance of possessions.

“It is better to eat a dry crust of bread with peace of mind than to have a banquet in a house full of trouble” (Proverbs 17:1).

Does God want us to be happy? Yes! Does God want us to be rich? Not really!

Sungmu Lee

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome back to Sunday School. All children are invited to join us for a new year of fun and faithful Sunday School classes. Our fall program begins Sunday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Three levels of Sunday School classes are offered this year:

Infant/Toddlers (all children up to 4 years old)

K-2nd Grade

3rd Grad- 6th Grade

7th grade – 8th Grade will attend Church and/or Confirmation class.

Please bring the registration form to Sunday School and give it to the teacher.

Dorothy Allen, Superintendent of Sunday School

DAY CARE CENTER

Volunteers are needed to help out in the day care center. We need volunteers in the morning and in the afternoon. To volunteer a packet of staff papers needs to be filled out, fingerprinting and a background check. We have 7 faithful volunteers who have given a great deal of time and we are hoping to lighten their load!

If you are unable to volunteer to work with the children maybe you can help answer the phone on Friday mornings. Please see Lois Fallon if you can help in any way. THANK YOU, Lois

Our Day Care Center is looking for a small upright refrigerator. We presently have a small college size refrigerator and it is too small. If anyone has a working refrigerator they could donate we would be very grateful. Please contact Donna in the church office, 666-7194. Thank you, Lois Fallon

SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 22ND

The September Church Council meeting will be after service at 11:15 on Sunday, September 22nd. The entire congregation is invited to all Church Council meetings. Lois Fallon, Chairperson

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship committee will be meeting after service on September 15, 2013. Location will be announced during service.

We are in need of ushers and lay reader volunteers. If this is something you can do in the upcoming few months please let either Donna Lechner, Christine Hoff or Kim Gosline know. What an easy way to serve our church.

2013 Charge Conference at 8pm on October 9th (Wednesday) at our church

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas ladies met for a luncheon in June and have expressed an interest in meeting for lunch more often. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the group for late September or early October gathering. Thank you, Christine Hoff
665-7237

“He Who Sings, Prays Twice!”- St. Augustine

Notes from the Music Director

Summer Music Thank You

Thank you to all of our vocalists and musicians who provided music for our worship services during the summer months. I thank you for sharing your talents with our church, and for providing the choirs with a much deserved rest. THANK YOU!

Mark Your Calendar's NOW

The music ministry at Bay Shore UMC will present its 4th Church Cabaret Concert on Sunday November 3rd. Tickets will be \$10.00 and will go on sale in October. More information to follow.

We are always recruiting new members for our music ministry at BayShore UMC....If you are interested in joining one of our groups, please read below. New members are ALWAYS welcome!

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir is the adult choir of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church. The Chamber Choir provides music each week for the 10:00am worship service and performs for our special Christmas Services, Lenten Services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services. New members are most cordially invited!

The Chamber Choir goals are to:

- Provide music for Christ-centered worship that stimulates the hearts and minds of singers and congregation.
- Provide service opportunities for singers to give of their talents to the church community.
- Include a variety of choral styles of quality choral literature which accommodate the talents and limitations of the choir membership.
- Feature anthems and responses that address sermon themes and liturgical seasons.
- Provide special services, and fund raising concerts annually.
- Provide a supportive, friendly social community for choir members.

The Chamber Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the Choir Room, and Sunday mornings, prior to worship service at 9:00am in the sanctuary. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 5th at 7:00 pm.

Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir is designed to nurture their understanding of and relationship with God, and to foster their love for music. Our choir consists of middle school and high school students, who are all talented musicians. Even though they are a small group, they make a BIG sound. The youth are actively involved at their schools in athletics, theater, band, choir, dance, and many clubs. New members are always welcome!

The Youth Choir goals are to:

- Share our faith in Jesus Christ through our music and our actions.
- Learn to participate in the leading of a Worship Service.
- Grow in our music skills through our rehearsal and performance schedule.
- Develop new relationships within our own group
- Learn to participate in and contribute to a large, diversified group.

The Youth Choir performs at special worship services and holy days. We rehearse on Sundays following worship services at 11:15 am in the sanctuary. Our first rehearsal is Sunday October 13th.

Penataquit Hand Bell Choir

The Penataquit Hand Bell Choir is open to anyone who loves and enjoys music. Some of our members never held a bell before, or know how to read music. Some were not able to take part in vocal choir but love music and surely enjoy being part of our group. Knowledge of music is not required! New members are warmly welcomed and appreciated.

The Penataquit Hand Bell Choir performs at special worship services and holy day. We rehearse on Sundays following worship services at 11:15 am in the West Room. Our first rehearsal is Sunday October 6th.

If you are interested in joining one of our music groups, please see Danny Cafiero, following worship service, or email him at DCAF31@aol.com. Thank you!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

In early June I traveled to Hofstra University for a four day conference of the New York Annual Conference. This is about the 12th time that I have represented our church. While many things remain the same, a few things do vary. I shopped at the Cokesbury store for a new Book of Resolutions and Discipline.

The mission area always has new brochures for our Mission committee, and of course, I like to purchase an item or two to support the missions of the various countries.

Our new Bishop, Martin McLee, seems very energetic and enthusiastic.

Our Bible Study was lead by Rev. Simeon Law, based on Acts, with the theme, Dismantling Walls, Building the Beloved Community. It was a great way to start the day.

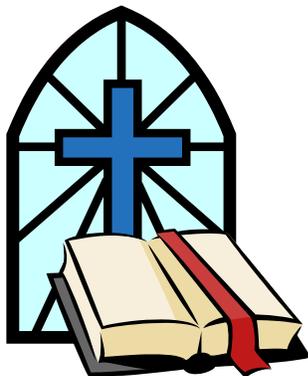
Rev. Halley Low participated in the Friday morning service, always nice to have a friendly face on the podium. I talked with many other lay members and pastors about things that were or were not working for increasing membership and participation in activities by the membership.

On the last day of Conference there is a ceremony of Ordination, new pastors being brought into our conference, dedicating themselves to the Methodist Church. It's very moving and a fitting way to return to our own churches, renewed in our faith.

Christine Hoff

RECYCLE YOUR INK CARTRIDGES

We are still collecting empty ink cartridges. Staples gives the church reward dollars for each cartridge we turn in. We use these rewards to purchase toner cartridges for our church copier or for any other office supplies that might be needed. If you have any cartridges to donate, please drop them off at the church office, the Day Care office or in the collection box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



Faithful Servant Kay Mc Cown passed into Eternal Rest on July 16, 2013

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 1 Erik Udvardia
Sept. 5 Heidi Fahey, Thomas Madeska
Sept. 6 Irene O'Sullivan, Alice Swetland
Sept. 7 Ruth Cavanagh, Gregory Sassone
Sept. 9 McKenzie Dowd
Sept. 10 Kevin LePrell
Sept. 11 Lecretia Charles, Melissa Yost
Sept. 12 George Mack, Jr.
Sept. 13 Thomas Wilson, Jr.
Sept. 15 Raymond M. Allen, Jr., Cynthia Finfrock, Rachel Wood
Sept. 16 Ed Stein
Sept. 17 Maureen Guadalupe, Diane Lewis, Justin Wells
Sept. 20 Kaitlin Kresse, Edward Meehan
Sept. 21 Emanuel Jones
Sept. 22 Edward Owen, Ann Scharfenberg
Sept. 24 Joel DiGenaro, Lucy McCarthy
Sept. 25 Dorothy Powell
Sept. 26 John Ferraro, Jr.
Sept. 27 Jonathan Bloom, Daniel Antonik
Sept. 28 Jonathan Hoff, Joseph Calvacca
Sept. 29 Lenora Daniel, Jacqueline Suda
Sept. 30 Emmanuel Jones

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 8 Raymond and Dorothy Allen
Sept. 10 John and Barbara Witherspoon
Sept. 24 Stephen and Jessica Schmalfluss

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen
Thursday 4:30 -5:30 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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