



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

November 2015

God is Our Refuge and Strength – an Ever-Present Help!

What do you do in times of trouble; when it seems darkest and you sense that your enemies have triumph; when all your friends and supporters disappeared leaving you standing alone in the midst of the chaos; where do you turn; and to whom do you seek refuge?

In his “Notes on the Bible,” Albert Barnes wrote that Psalm 46 had been called Luther’s Psalm. “It was that which he was accustomed to sing when he found himself in trouble. When the times were dark, and when disaster hit hardest. Luther would call his colleagues, “come let us sing Psalm 46.”

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble..”

(Psalm 46:1)

Also, one of my favorites, Psalm 46 speaks of finding refuge, strength, peace and tranquility in the midst of any danger. God, *Elohiym*, God in God’s fullness, the godhead will be your shelter, your place of escape, and God will be always present in the midst of your troubles.

The Assyrians, one of the most powerful empires in ancient history, rose up to invade God’s people. They were known for overpowering and conquering cities and forcing them to pay tribute. But King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah together with the people cried out to the God for help. The Assyrians were too strong and powerful for them to battle; so they literally “fled to” God for help and strength. The word refuge means “to flee for protection.” (“*Chacah*,” Hebrew Lexicon, #2620) They put their trust, hope and confidence in God, a God who has proven to be enough. God literally became their shelter, their fortress and all that they need. The Sons of Korah (The doorkeepers in the Temple) wrote this Psalm as a celebration of praise to God for God’s deliverance from the mighty Assyrian army. (2 Chronicles 32:1-23)

God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and God will be your refuge and your strength in time of your troubles. God is ever-present (“*Matsa*”, Hebrew Lexicon #4672), which means that God “is all-sufficient.” Therefore we will not fear because God is in the midst of whatever you are going through. God has proven to be all-sufficient. The God of hosts (*Elohiym*): Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is on the case.

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” (Psalm 46:10-11)

Love, grace and peace!

Pastor Wendy



Christmas Craft Fair/Bake Sale

Friday, November 13 from 5-7 pm
Saturday, November 14 from 10 am-3 pm

Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner:
Friday 5-7 pm, tickets \$5



Homemade cookies * Gift Baskets

Come with your friends and family to support your Church and the Boy Scouts.

Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner

As in years past, our Thursday Soup Kitchen will expand to a full holiday dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 26th. *Cooks, servers, setup, cleanup, and good cheer are all needed.* Volunteers should sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact the Church Office or 2015 Coordinator Sue Yost at cluele3972@aol.com

Food should be prepared ahead of time and dropped off between 2:30 and 3:00pm Thursday. Setup will be between 3:00-4:30pm, serving from 4:30-5:30pm, and cleanup from 5:30-6:00pm. For those on limited budgets, the Soup Kitchen fund will gladly pay for items you purchase – just keep the receipts and contact the Church Office for reimbursement.

As of press time, we still need:

- Three turkeys, 15 pounds or more each. Check with the Church Office before buying a bird, we usually have access to donated turkeys. Best option is to cook turkeys beforehand, slice into catering pans, and refrigerate. We will warm them at the church Thursday. Alternatively, bring turkeys hot about 2:30pm. Make your own gravy or bring pan drippings and we'll make gravy at church.
- Four half catering pans mashed potatoes.
- Half pan turnips.
- Two half pans green bean casserole.
- Two half pans baked pasta (shells, ziti, mac and cheese, etc).
- Half pan sweet potatoes.
- Twelve loaves Bread.
- Pickles and olives.
- Five gallons fruit punch.
- Coffee, ½ gallon milk, sugar (check/buy as needed).
- Paper goods – plates, cups, utensils, napkins (sufficient for 100, check/buy if needed)

ADDITIONAL/DIFFERENT ITEMS WELCOME but please RSVP on food so we don't get too much of some items and not enough of others.

Last year we provided a full Thanksgiving Dinner for 102 people! Thank you for your generosity in the past and please help us serve our neighbors just as well this year.

MISSIONS

Bags for the fall food drive will be given out on Sunday, November 1 and collected on Sunday November 15 to enable us deliver the food to Bay Shore Food Pantry on time for Thanksgiving.

We are still collecting child-proof prescription bottles for the Malawi project. Please put them in the box marked "Malawi Project Inc." in the back of the pews.

Vida Owusu
Missions

Children's Ministry Guidelines (Part of the Safe Sanctuary Policy)

Because the safety of your child is a priority, we have several guidelines we would like to make you aware of:

- We cannot accept children into the classrooms until two volunteers (one being trained in Safe Sanctuary and screened) are present to begin check-in.
- Do not ever leave your child unsupervised for any length of time in any classroom.
- Children will be accepted 10 minutes before programming is scheduled to begin, no sooner.
- Parents/Guardians need to take their children to the restroom before dropping them off for Sunday School
- Parents/Guardians of preschoolers through the 4th grade MUST sign-in their child when bringing them upstairs for Sunday School
- Preschool through First Grade are to be picked up by a Parent, Guardian, or assigned responsible adult.
- Children in the second grade are to be picked up by parent/guardian unless a waiver is on file. The waiver form would grant permission for an older sibling to pick-up the child.
- Children in the Third and Fourth grade are to be picked up by parent/guardian unless a waiver is on file. The waiver form would grant permission for an older sibling to pick-up the child or to allow the child to leave the classroom to meet Parents/Guardians at a specific place.
- Fifth and Sixth Grade children are allowed to leave on their own after Sunday school.
- Children are to be picked up immediately after Service is complete.
- It is the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian to inform BSUMC Children's Ministry staff of any allergies or special needs for their child.
- Please do not send personal items to class with your non-nursery aged child. If your child is in the nursery, please make sure all personal items (diaper bags, bottles, pacifiers, etc.) are permanently marked with the child's first and last name.
- For their safety, children are not permitted to roam around the church unsupervised at any time, including Sundays.

Coming Soon: Life Skills Ministry

Another exciting addition to our ministry is in the works. Stay tuned for details on a discussion group that explores Biblical approaches to modern life. The quarterly gatherings are open to everyone and will cover a diverse range of topics, all emphasizing life skills.

Examples of possible topics:

- Staying positive in a world of cynicism and sarcasm.
- Christmas: Making it about the message, not materialism.
- Talking to kids about troubled times. Random shootings, war and civil unrest, and natural disasters can be both unsettling and upsetting. How can we seek personal peace through God?
- What we can learn from Pope Francis? His message of love, forgiveness and helping the poor is one that all Christians can embrace.
- Celebrity gossip: How to step away from the spin cycle and tabloid dramas.

For those who cannot attend, we are thinking of ways to continue the discussion online via an email thread or website postings. More details coming soon. In the meantime, feel free to suggest topics and related books for the discussion.

Dale Dowd

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship is just that, adult fellowship. That's the aim of the church's new Adult Fellowship ministry, which kicked off on October 3 with a six-week yoga class. We have an awesomely diverse congregation at Bay Shore United Methodist with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. Let us share our skills and strengths with each other!

Please see me if you are interested in leading one of these gatherings and we are always looking for more ideas. Here are some of the activities that are either planned or possible. Classes will be held on Saturdays and times will vary based on the availability of the instructor. Some may have a nominal fee to cover the cost of materials.

January 9 - Now We're Cooking

A cooking demonstration in Fellowship Hall by Newsday's chief food writer, Erica Marcus. Erica will cook up some delicious dishes that we all enjoy afterward. Participants can take home the recipes to make or modify to their own tastes.

February 5 - Bee My Valentine

A 90 minute class in which participants will learn card-crafting techniques, such as embossing and stamping. Everyone will be able to create their own Valentine project to take home.

March – Old-fashioned Sing Along

Don't Be Cruel & I Only Have Eyes For You! Channel your inner Frankie Valli at this 90 minute gathering to sing oldies but goodies. Refreshments will follow.

April - Thinking Spring

Let's get our hands dirty as we start tomato seeds and plant window-sill herb gardens to take home for culinary creations. Soil and flower seeds will also be on hand so we can start annuals that can be transplanted to flower beds at the church's front entrance.

Thanks from Shoes For All

On Behalf of Shoes For all, I would like to thank everyone for your shoe donations. Since starting the shoe drive at our Church, we have collected over 100 pairs of shoes.

Shoes For All (SFA), is a 501 (3) (c) nonprofit organization that facilitates the collection of unwanted shoes and distributes them to those in need across Long Island and the New York Metropolitan area. SFA can only achieve its goals with the assistance of generous donations from the members of our local Churches and business community. Without your donations serving our community's in need would not be possible.

All of our Board members are volunteers, we have no paid employees and 100% of your donation is used to support the people we provide shoes for.

If you would like to donate your unwanted shoes, please drop them in the Shoes for all box located in the fellowship hall.

To learn more about Shoes For All or to make a cash donation, please visit www.shoesforall-sfa.com

Thank you.

Deirdrea Renwick – SFA Treasurer.

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2016

As United Methodists, we covenant (promise) five things to bring to God's Service as participants in this congregation. These are our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

So what exactly is a pledge - and what relationship does it bear to bringing our gifts to the Church?

A pledge is your personal goal for monetary giving to the Church in the coming year. **It is confidential** - only two people in the church see the individual pledges. **It in no way affects your standing in the Church** - this is guaranteed by the rules of United Methodism. Finally, **it is non-binding**. We are here to serve the poor, not make you poor ☺. We are only interested in the amount you can give freely and joyfully and not a penny more. If that amount changes during the year, so can your pledge.



So why pledge? The Bible asks it of us. Proverbs 3:9 advises “**Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.**” Now most of us aren't farmers anymore but the principle is the same. Pledging is a way of saying “I am going to make a priority of returning a portion of the bounty the Lord has provided to His Service, not just give what is left over.”

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says “**Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” Pledging is one way we put “skin in the game” and commit ourselves to support our Church.

Yes, finances have been incredibly difficult for a number of years - but we are still here, and if you look at the Charge Conference reports you know that we intend to remain here and remain an active and outward facing Church that serves God and our neighbors.

Think about all the wonderful things the Church does with our gifts:

- It provides a place for the worship of a loving and forgiving God – and for Fellowship with one another.
- We come to Church to celebrate and consecrate the most joyful events of our lives – and for comfort in the most difficult times.
- It is a place for spiritual development – and a source of direction and hope when our lives are confusing and burdened.

This is a place where change begins - both within ourselves and in the larger world because of our support for over 30 mission projects with scopes that range from local to global.

Our Church has done all these things and more, not just this year but for 205 years because every year people like us decided to make it so with their prayers and their presence and their gifts and their service and their witness. Now it is our choice whether we will with God's help continue these things into the future for the benefit of ourselves and all those who come after us.

If we choose as wisely as those saints who have come before us, Jesus promised “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back” (Luke 6:38).

*All that you are and all that you have is God’s gift to you.
What you choose to do with those things is your gift to God.*

The fact that you pledge is more important than the amount you pledge. We ask that you prayerfully consider your personal circumstances, fill out the pledge form with an amount you can freely and joyfully give, and return it to the church office or at any Worship offering.

The blessing of pledges will take place Sunday November 22nd, but we will gratefully accept pledges at any time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request - and for being a unique and valued part of our little corner of God’s Universal Church.

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Please fill out, detach page, fold to keep your pledge confidential,
and return to the Church office or in any offering. Thank you for your support.
Additional pledge forms are available at Worship.
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Bay Shore UMC 2016 Pledge Form

My/our pledge to the church is \$ _____
() Weekly () Monthly
() Quarterly () Yearly

I (we) understand this commitment begins January 1st, 2016 and concludes December 31st, 2016, and may be revised at any time by contacting the church office at 631-666-7194 or by email at office@bayshoreumc.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 3	Stan Orme
Nov. 4	Allison Becker, Sean Joseph, Alyssa Hourican
Nov. 5	Jonathan Wood
Nov. 7	Cameron Allen, Christopher Witherspoon, Manuel Costales
Nov. 8	Payton Feil
Nov. 10	Eric Fager
Nov. 11	Kara Seyda
Nov. 14	Barbara Zelenka
Nov. 15	Edward Goldman
Nov. 16	Yaa Antiwiwaa Owusu
Nov. 17	Ava Lynn Statam, Caren DeRonde
Nov. 19	Ann Marie Falcon, John Murray
Nov. 21	Devin Keskinen
Nov. 22	Jennifer Allen
Nov. 25	Max Lyman
Nov. 26	Christopher Rivera
Nov. 27	Adwoa Ababio
Nov. 27	Marguerite Meehan
Nov. 30	Mildred Van Sicklen

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 20	Jim and Katherine Cooper
Nov. 25	Eric and Regina Schneider
Nov. 29	Jeffrey and Dawn Lawther
Nov. 30	Bill and Ann Scharfenberg

DATES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen
Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

Thrift Shop
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers for Thrift Shop and Soup Kitchen always welcome – contact the Church Office.

Deadline for the December Spire is November 16th.
Send your contributions to Editor Ellen Fager at citylife4@verizon.net

Elaine Williams is now at
Bella Mi Salon
135 East Main Street East Islip NY

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“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” – John 14:27 (NIV)