



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

April 2016

The Church: A Welcoming Community of Faith!

The church is a welcoming community of faith. A place where we cannot pick and choose who will come in, and that's a good thing -- we want a diverse congregation of all ages, races, incomes and backgrounds.

Jesus was always finding ways to establish a welcoming community of faith. When it was not popular for a rabbi to welcome the company of a woman, Jesus found a way to engage her, who was only identified as "the Samaritan woman." (John 4:7) This woman traveled a distance in the heat of the day, alone, to get water from the well. Could it be that there was a spiritual yearning for something more, something better than she had? Could it be that she was coming to pray, to seek the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Could it be that this woman was seeking deliverance, looking for the Messiah to come and save her and her City?

Jesus, too, traveled a distance and broke the rules. There was a need in Samaria, and whenever there's a need, God will show up to meet your need. To minister to this woman, Jesus sent his disciples to buy food, so Jesus was alone with the woman, having no distractions.

The Samaritans were considered "half-breeds," religiously speaking. They were the outcasts -- they were called "dogs," because they intermarried with other races. Jesus did not care about who they were married to, but he cared about their souls. They needed to hear him and he needed to share the Gospel with them. He was on a mission. He needed to let them know that God loves them too. They too, are welcomed into the community of faith. Through one unnamed woman, a whole city accepted the Messiah, the Gospel was preached.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, don't ever underestimate the power of one woman who seeks after God. If you have a need, keep on trusting, keep on praying, and keep on coming to the well. God will show up and give you that living water that will quench your thirst and satisfy your every yearning in your soul.

The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water, so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." (John 4:15, NIV)

In His service,
Pastor Wendy

LENTEN SUPPER AND WORSHIP



A little rain couldn't dampen the spirit at the Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper and special Service. We welcomed our brothers and sisters from the community with our usual warmth, and plenty of delicious soups, sandwiches and desserts. Many thanks to all who cooked, set up, and cleaned up after the supper. The service was quite moving, with members of our local clergy sharing the pulpit, and special music for the occasion. We are blessed to have a congregation that makes events like these so memorable.

At left: a lot of spirit at one altar! L to R: Rev. Craig Thomas Robinson, Jr., Rev. Dyanne Blair-Pina; Pastor Kristian Baudler, Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Elder Xavier Goodwin.



Bringing the Message.



Breaking bread together.



AN INTERFAITH FEAST FOR PASSOVER

Our Passover seder welcomed 17 people to the table, where we learned about the rituals and symbols behind this traditional Jewish feast. The esteemed Rabbi Leslie Schotz explained the elements of the seder plate. We dipped our parsley in salt water, recounted the 10 plagues with drops of wine and hid matzo from the children. (Eagle-eyed Michael Renwick found the bread.) Afterward we shared some light traditional fare, including matzo ball soup and potato kugel. A special thanks to Rabbi Schotz for helping us experience one of Judaism's holiest holidays.

CELEBRATING THE RISEN LORD EASTER SUNDAY



AN AFTERNOON OF GRAND OPERA AND CLASSIC MUSICAL THEATER



Danny sings "La donna e mobile" from Rigoletto.



L to R: Eric, Suzanne, Russell, Malinda, and Danny.

Suzanne Balaes-Blair, soprano, Russell Cusick, baritone, Malinda Haslett, soprano, Eric Malson, pianist, and our Music Director Daniel Cafiero, tenor presented a wonderful concert benefiting our Music Ministry. Thanks to the musicians, organizers, volunteers, and patrons!

SOME WONDERFUL FINANCIAL NEWS

Over the past few years I have written the congregation several times with difficult financial news, today it gives me great joy to communicate some wonderful financial news. The finances of the Church have been steadily improving over the past few months. On February 28, 2016 we reached an important milestone in our financial recovery. For the first time in a very long time:

- 1) Our bills were ALL PAID,
- 2) Our apportionment payments for 2016 were UP TO DATE

[This is still the case as of press time for this Spire]

Thanks to God for sustaining us and to all those who have supported our Church with their gifts and service and prayers. Because you believed, we are still here. Remember you can examine our online current expense ledger anytime at: www.bayshoreumc.org/currentexpense Please continue to give what you can to support our Church. – Tom Wilson, Finance Chair.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The season of Lent and Easter are now behind us, and spring awaits. It is a time for renewal, and growth. For me it is a time to plan my garden, looking to buy new plants, what to divide, to get rid of. How big of a vegetable garden do I want, or need? Do I really need that new ceramic planter, do I really need 2 **large** bags of potting soil – well yes, I do! Of course, if you were to ask Roy, you might get another answer!

While looking ahead, I take stock of the Lenten season, and the things I have learned. During Lent it is not what I give up to remember Christ, but what I can learn thru the Bay Shore Ecumenical services at the 5 participating churches. These soup and sandwich services have been going on for over 15 years, led by Rev. Baudler of the Lutheran Church, and listening to these fine Pastors in their sermons, I hear a different perspective of the teachings of Christ. Some are more lively than others, the choice of hymns are new (some are very familiar), the choirs always give their very best, and friendships are renewed.

I would encourage you to try and turn out for these services next year, to worship together, to enjoy, and to learn. We generally get 7-8 folks, sometimes even less from our Church attending. Maybe next year we get an average of 10! Peace be with you all and happy spring. – Ellen Fager, Spire editor.

MISSIONS

Missions committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous support during the Spring food drive. The Bay Shore food pantry was very appreciative and thankful for our donation to help our less fortunate neighbors. Vida Owusu and Regina Schneider – Missions.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Adult Fellowship has some fun activities planned for the spring. Below is the lineup for April and May. Come to meet and mix with your fellow congregants – with a little fun and food on the side. See Beth DeCarbo if you have questions or wish to register for any of these activities.

APRIL – 9/11: Never Forget. Join Adult Fellowship for a trip to lower Manhattan to see the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. The trip begins with an 8:10 a.m. train from the Babylon LIRR station, followed by a subway ride to the site of the World Trade Center. There we will spend about 2 hours going through the museum and visiting the memorial.

Lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant that offers deli sandwiches and other light fare. Note that this trip will involve walking, and venues may have stairs or inclines.

Date: Saturday, April 16.

Cost: Adults: \$51.50

Youths (ages 12-17): \$42.50

Seniors: \$38.50

The cost does not include the cost of lunch. Self-guided tours and themed itineraries are available at no or low cost. This gathering is open to members of the congregation and their friends ages 12 or older.

MAY - Let's Get Growing! Next month, Adult Fellowship will be planting starter gardens. Participants can create a windowsill garden with rosemary, oregano and other herbs; start seedlings for summertime tomatoes and other veggies; and choose annuals that can be transplanted in the church flower beds. All materials--planting-soil, seeds, fertilizer and containers--will be provided.



Date: Saturday, May 7

Cost: \$5 and participants will take their plantings home.

YOU (yes, you!) CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Join your fellow congregants, neighbors and other community members at Impact, an open, non-political discussion group that aims to offer hope and meaning in a chaotic world.

Moderators are the Rev. Dyanne Blair-Pina, a youth and family counselor who is the author of “Stuck in the Past Can Get You Burned.” She is joined by longtime Bay Shore UMC member Dale Dowd, the mother of four daughters who is active in the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Community.

The event is sponsored by Bay Shore United Methodist Church, so we hope to see some members of our congregation join the discussion.

Two more sessions remain before the summer break:

Monday, April 11

Tuesday, May 24

Discussions are from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Public Library

NEIGHBORLY MINISTRY: OUR HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT

After seeing an uptick in the number of homeless people and loiterers on church grounds and in the neighborhood, Bay Shore United Methodist Church took action! Here is an update of our efforts since the beginning of the year:

- Pastor Wendy has been **meeting with the homeless** on church grounds to offer prayers and resource cards listing where those in need can get shelter, food and clothing assistance.
- In an effort to raise the issue with civic leaders, Pastor Wendy addressed the Bay Shore-Brightwaters **Chamber of Commerce** in January.
- Letters were sent to all **Bay Shore-area clergy** to talk about interfaith efforts that could address the needs of the local community. Pastor Wendy has since followed up with several members of the clergy.
- We have given away **70 Care Kits**, which include a toothbrush/toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo/body wash, other grooming supplies and snacks. Funding for the Care Kits came from Long Island Rocks! For The Homeless and Veterans. Separately, hats and scarves have also been given away during the cold winter months.
- At the Soup Kitchen on Feb. 18, Pastor Wendy, assisted by volunteers Bill Suda, Doreen Enin and four youths from the congregation, gave **communion to the guests** in Fellowship Hall. Afterward, Pastor Wendy met individually with the guests to offer prayers and blessings and answer questions. Now there are plans to continue Communion outreach on the third Thursday of every month.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Nicolle Costa	April 19	Mathew Allen, Gail Moore
April 2	Dale Dowd, Bud Ruter	April 22	Gina Marie Biondolillo
April 3	Sean Sawyer	April 23	George Mack, Anyel Maritza Pinto
April 4	Randall Kane, Diane Stead	April 24	Juliana Fenton
April 7	Susan Arrigo	April 26	Brian Hoffmann, Stephen Munoz, Marjorie Myers
April 8	Maureen Aromi, Barbara Witherspoon	April 27	Beth DeCarbo, Richard O'Sullivan
April 9	Kevin Sharfenberg	April 28	Peggy Figliuolo, Robert Nickels, Pat Riedel
April 11	Alexandra Mayer	April 29	Robert Warren, Halley Low
April 13	James Markey, Tim Stein	April 30	Jean Finfrock
April 14	Donald Conste		
April 18	Hannah Gonzalez, Gene Ufer		

ANNIVERSARIES

April 4	Joseph & Eileen DiGiovanna	April 26	Charles & Jean Finfrock
April 15	Michael & Susan Arrigo	April 27	Michael & Lilyan Harrington

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

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

CONNECT WITH BAY SHORE UMC

Website: bayshoreumc.org

Pastor's email: pastor@bayshoreumc.org Office email: office@bayshoreumc.org



Find us on Facebook: click on the  icon on the upper right of our website home page
 Yahoo email group: to receive occasional emailed news and notices about the Church, please send a request to be added to office@bayshoreumc.org.

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Send news and announcements to Spire Editor Ellen Fager at citylife4@verizon.net

The SPIRE is available in electronic form on our website (click MEDIA / e-Newsletter) or printed and mailed. Send mailing requests, removal requests, and address corrections to the Church office:

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**"Therefore welcome one another
as Christ has welcomed you, for
the glory of God." - Romans 15:7**