

The Church Herald

Stony Brook Community Church (United Methodist), Stony Brook, New York



NYAC VISION STATEMENT

**The New York Annual
Conference, through the
grace of God, embodies a
beloved community of hope,
building up a healthy Body of
Christ, with heartwarmed
United Methodists
in mission for the
transformation of the world.**

STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

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**TO VIEW *THE HERALD*
IN FULL COLOR, VISIT
OUR WEB SITE AT:**

stonybrookcommunitychurch.org

The Pastor's Column

The first Earth Day took place in April of 1970. Since then, it has been an annual event which has linked environmental groups, schools and the religious community.

Christianity is anchored in earth. William Temple, one of our greater archbishops of Canterbury, said that Christianity is the most materialistic of all the religions. Sure it is spiritual, but it is not spiritualistic. The Incarnation is at its heart. God's Word became flesh and, says the Greek word, "Pitched his tent in our midst."

Earth is good. Dirt is an ambiguous word. It can mean unclean. It can mean obscene. It can mean gossip, as in "What's the dirt?" Or it can mean the ground, as in nourishment and foundation and basis and nature's wall-to-wall carpet. It is what God took to make Adam. It is what God took to make us. Literally and metaphorically, for both are true. The great theologian Paul Tillich called God the Ground of Being.

Earth is good. Earth is nourishing. Earth is the source of our food and of many of our medicines. Earth is the way we engage life and the means through which we serve. Earth is the instrument for and the implement of the way we harness and lever the universe with our stewardship. Gardening and its big sister farming are among the noblest of works. Remember, Eve and Adam didn't get their start in a supermarket.

So what are the implications of all this, of the fact that Christianity is the most materialistic of all the religions? Jesus paid a lot of attention to earth – to the process and seasons of growing – and his parables often tied us to the earth and its natural richness. He used the medicinal properties of dirt and spit to form mud to use in healing. He walked; he observed; he even harvested.

The link is clear. We are inseparably connected with the environment. The flora and the fauna are our sisters, our brothers, our parents. It tells us that by virtue of our seeming autonomy, we are even more responsible to be engaged, to be stewards of one another under

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Come to a 'Town Meeting'

The 2008 Stewardship Campaign will begin with a "Town Meeting" on Sunday, April 6, from 4:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. This is an important opportunity for the SBCC community to come together to discuss some of our dreams for the church and our objectives for the coming year.

In the spirit of stewardship and vision, we will discuss where we are now as a congregation and where we want to go. In order to encourage as many people as possible to attend the Town Meeting, there will be a special program (a movie with popcorn and beverages) at the same time as the meeting for children of all ages in the Sullivan House. The Town Meeting will take place in the Community Room.

We will follow up with additional information and a financial appeal culminating on Sunday, May 4, Stewardship Sunday.

ANNUAL SPRING MUSICALE

**Sunday, April 13, 2008
4 p.m.**

A musical afternoon featuring:

***Christine Free, Mezzo-Soprano
Jacob Rhodebeck, Piano
Carol Landis, Organ
Richard Olness, Trumpet
Robert Price, Piano***

Tickets: \$12; \$10 seniors; \$5 students

***For sponsorships, tickets or other
information, call 751-0574.***

***Tickets also available
after Sunday worship.***



**COME AWAY!
RELAX WITH FRIENDS!**

**STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH
INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT WEEKEND
AT CAMP QUINIPET
SHELTER ISLAND, NY**

MAY 16-18, 2008

For details about our facilities in the Jesse Lee House,
go to www.quinipet.org

**COST: \$50 for adults; \$20 for ages 18 and under
(Includes two nights and five meals)
Saturday only attendees: \$20**

Scholarships available for anyone for whom this is a hardship – speak to Rev. Braddon.

Easter Sunday 2008: *Christ is risen!*



The SBCC family gathered to worship and celebrate on Easter Sunday. As is the congregation's custom, the young people of the church distributed colorful balloons at the end of the service. Rev. Braddon preached an inspiring sermon entitled, "Transforming the Stone." The altar was especially beautiful, decorated with azaleas and lilies donated by church members in memory or in honor of loved ones and friends. The celebration continued during a special Fellowship Hour in the Community Room.



Word and Worship for April

Sunday, April 6

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35



Sunday, April 13

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Sunday, April 20

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Sunday, April 27

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21



Almost 20 youngsters turned out for SBCC's Annual Children's Easter Party, held on March 22. The children made crafts and dyed Easter eggs, played games and enjoyed refreshments before gathering outside for this group shot.

Photo by Carolyn Graham

MYF fasters raise \$1,600 for the hungry

Six members of our Methodist Youth Fellowship participated in the World Vision 30-Hour Famine Project the weekend of Feb. 22-23. We started off the weekend preparing and serving a spaghetti and meatball dinner to residents of the Pax Christi Men's Shelter. Pastor Liz Braddon, Michele Dexter and Wally Robinson joined the MYF for the dinner. It was an eye-opening experience for our youth, who realized how fortunate they are.

After dinner we headed back to the church, where Pastor Liz helped the youth plan their participation in the Feb. 23 Sunday worship service. We had a lock-in (sleep-over) in the Community Room and watched a movie about homelessness. During Sunday worship, the youth read scripture, presented a video about the 30-Hour Famine Project and spoke to the congregation about the importance of tithing. The youth solicited pledges from the congregation as well as from family, neighbors and friends, raising approximately \$1,600. Thanks to everyone for their support!

– Sue Murphy

Calling all young performers!

This summer, SBCC will be sponsoring a Performing Arts Camp for children ages 7 to 15 years, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, in two three-week sessions:

Session 1: June 30 – July 18

Session 2: July 21 – August 8

Each session will include classes in acting, improvisation, dance and voice and rehearsals for an Open House performance of an abridged musical theatre production. This is an intensive, small camp workshop with an emphasis on raising the children's personal performance skills level while learning to excel as a group. Classes will be taught by an Actor's Equity professional, and are open to all children in the community with or without previous performing experience.

The cost per session is \$500, with a 10% discount for siblings and double-session enrollment. Children may enroll in one or both sessions. Class size is limited to 20 campers per session. Enrollment applications can be downloaded from the SBCC website: www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org.

For more information, please call Camp Coordinator Sherrill Jones at 631-751-6740 or e-mail sherrilljones@mac.com.

United Methodist 101: *A New Series by Pastor Elizabeth Braddon*

The United Methodist Church is a representative democracy. This month, April 23-May 2, the General Conference of the UMC will be held in Fort Worth, TX. I will be attending not as a voting delegate but as a member of the general coordinating committee called The Connectional Table. The General Conference, which takes place every four years, is where the program and the policies of the denomination are set. The key focus is our Book of Discipline. One thousand elected delegates from Annual and Central Conferences will consider over 1,500 petitions from individuals and groups as well as recommended changes from the General Agencies of the church or Council of Bishops.

To learn more about what will be on the agenda, how decisions are made and highlights of the event, go to www.umc.org and click on General Conference. The delegates are half clergy and half laity. The New York Annual Conference has six clergy, six laity and two reserve delegates in each category. The Annual Conference is a geographic area; in our case, six districts in Southeastern NY and Western Connecticut make up our Annual Conference. The term "Annual Conference" refers to both the geographic area and to the yearly meeting that will be held June 11-14. SBCC has two lay members of Annual Conference and one clergy member. Visit www.nyac.com for more information on the New York Annual Conference.



Consider a Methodist camp experience



There is a wonderful opportunity for our children, youth, families and even adults to attend week-long overnight sessions at one of our camp sites. The closest site is Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island. There is a half-week "first-timers camp" for first and second graders. The camps are small groups led by a volunteer director and volunteer and paid staff. Activities such as sailing, hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, athletics and dance are available.

In addition to Camp Quinipet, there is Kingswood, a rustic camping facility in Hancock, NY, and Camp Epworth in High Falls, NY. Posters and brochures can be found in the Community Room.

SEE PAGE 2 TO LEARN ABOUT SBCC'S QUINIPET RETREAT IN MAY!

News and notes. . .

The **Annual Progressive Dinner** is coming up on Saturday, May 3. A sign-up sheet is posted in the downstairs Community Room. Further details will be available in the Sunday bulletin.

SBCC is participating in the Three Village Community **Vacation Bible Study** July 14-18. Registration forms are available in the Community Room. Volunteer adult/youth teachers are needed, as well as volunteers to help with crafts, snacks, etc. For details, call Sue Murphy at 871-2368.

The **United Methodist Women** will host an evening of gentle yoga on Tuesday, April 8, 8 p.m., in the Community Room. Nancy Pintauro from the Yoga Studio in East Setauket will lead us. Since this is an introduction, she'll "be gentle" to each level of experience, with individual consideration (even to sitters). The only equipment necessary is loose clothing, a large towel and a fun attitude!

Drs. Larry and Ruth Jacobs will be returning to SBCC with another eight-week session of **Food for Life**, a program for cancer survivors and healthy eating. The program will take place in the Community Room from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday, April 7 thru Monday, June 2. Please register through NYS Assemblyman Steve Englebright's office (751-3094). The program is free and open to all.

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the vast creative umbrella of human rights, and to do this through our political systems, our cultures, our sciences, our arts.

This year's Earth Day ecumenical theme is "The Poverty of Global Climate Change." (link: www.umc-gbcs.org). Global climate change is fundamentally altering God's creation. Bird and fish migration patterns are changing; permafrost is melting; and coastal wetlands are disappearing as a result of the rising sea level.

The great poet John Donne said it well in 1623 when he wrote that, "all [hu]mankind is of one author; no one is an island, entire of him[her]self; every one is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." As we have become more and more alert to the ways in which our human activity is stressing the balance of nature, this wisdom strikes home.

The expected toll on human society is staggering. Global climate change reduces access to drinking water, limits access to food and negatively impacts human health, especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Although global climate change affects all human populations across the globe, it hits those living in poverty the hardest because of their direct dependence on their surrounding physical environment for survival.

Recommended action steps to stem climate change include: educating ourselves at as many levels as we can; making our homes, church and community more energy efficient; and supporting legislation that fights climate change and includes assistance to those living in poverty. We have taken small steps through articles in previous newsletters, changing light bulbs in the church facilities, and instituting more intentional recycling practices. I am pleased that there is concern among us and hope that we will continue the dialogue.

In the Spirit of Christ,
Pastor Liz

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Taizé Worship, 7 p.m.	6 p.m., AA Chancel Choir Reh., 7:30 p.m.	10 a.m., Al-Anon	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship, Eucharist & Sun. School, 10 a.m. Stewardship Campaign Town Mtg., 4:30 p.m. MYF, 6 p.m.	Bible Study, 10:15 a.m. Food for Life, 6:30 p.m. 7 p.m., AA Book Club, 7:30 p.m.	UMW, 8 p.m. Join us for gentle yoga!	Taizé Worship, 7 p.m.	6 p.m., AA Chancel Choir Reh., 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.	10 a.m., Al-Anon	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship & Sunday School, 10 a.m. Spring Concert, 4 p.m.	Bible Study, 10:15 a.m. Food for Life, 6:30 p.m. 7 p.m., AA Bd. of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.	Herald Deadline Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	Taizé Worship, 7 p.m.	6 p.m., AA Chancel Choir Reh., 7:30 p.m.	10 a.m., Al-Anon	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship & Sunday School, 10 a.m. Passover	Bible Study, 10:15 a.m. Food for Life, 6:30 p.m.	Earth Day	UMC Gen. Conf. (thru May 2) Taizé Worship, 7 p.m.	6 p.m., AA Chancel Choir Reh., 7:30 p.m.	10 a.m., Al-Anon	
27	28	29	30			
Worship & Sunday School, 10 a.m. Deadline for Plant Sale Orders	Food for Life, 6:30 p.m.		Taizé Worship, 7 p.m.			COMING SOON May 3: Progressive Dinner May 9 & 10: UMW Plant Sale

TIME FOR THE UMW PLANT SALE!

The United Methodist Women are in the midst of their annual Plant Sale.

Flats (each with 48 plants) and 10" hanging baskets are being offered.

Order forms are now available in the Sunday bulletin and on the SBCC website (www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org).

Orders must be accompanied by payment.

Plants will be available for pick-up in May, dates and times to be announced.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS APRIL 27.

For further information or to obtain an order form, call the Church Office at 751-0574.



