

November 2009

# Church Herald

***Stony Brook Community Church, United Methodist***  
**216 Christian Ave, Stony Brook NY 11790**  
**Office: 631-751-0574**

## **The Pastor's Column**

*I first wrote this column in 2007 and thought it bore repeating.*

*"November silently sneaks up on us, catching our senses by surprise"*

I read these words in "A Simple Abundance: a Daybook of Comfort and Joy" by Sarah Ban Breathnach. Indeed, it is November first and today it is grey outside with a breeze that reminds me of the winter to come. There is shift in my life. As it gets colder, my recreational life often shifts from lots of activity (walking, bike riding, kayaking, time to watch the sunset) to the quieter space – curled up with a good book, building a fire; listening to music, or sharing with a friend.

There is another shift as November emerges. It is the season of Thanksgiving. Not just a day, but hopefully a season. How do we cultivate our habits of giving thanks? I'm pretty good about immediately saying thank you and in my heart, I feel sincere gratitude, but often get so involved in whatever the next thing is in my life, that I don't take the extra step that expresses how much I truly appreciate what has happened. I'd like to be more conscious about how I share my gratitude. I admire those for whom it seems so natural.

Like an Advent Calendar that prepares us for the birth of Christ, can we think of those ways to prepare ourselves in thanksgiving for all that we have received?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Begin the day and end the day with a simple word of thanks to God.
- Cultivate the habit of giving one genuine complement to another human being as well as yourself. Words can hurt, words can heal.
- Offer to do something out of the ordinary for someone in thanksgiving for who they are in your life.
- If not doing it already, add a mealtime ritual of each family member giving thanks for something. Create a bulletin board or "thanksgiving tree" and keep adding to it. Make a "blessings" jar and every time there is something to appreciate, write it down. On Thanksgiving day, maybe read them around the table.
- Pay closer attention to the service people in your life (mail deliverers, cashiers, garbage collectors, etc.)
- Create thanksgiving cards or write notes (could be an email) – or make a phone call out of the blue just to say thanks.
- Try saying thank you for something that initially feels very negative. See if there is something positive to come out of it.

Appreciation is the highest, purest form of love because it asks for nothing and gives everything. Saying "I appreciate you" or "Thank you" is powerful – in fact in its simplicity it has the incredible capacity to change lives.

Happy Thanksgiving!

With many thanks, Elizabeth

### **Church School News + An Invitation**

Our church school continues to provide Christian Education with our children and youth with a team of teachers and an easily accessible and useable curriculum entitled "The Whole People of God." It is organized around the lectionary of scripture that is the order of scripture for the Sunday time of worship. So church school and Sunday morning worship are on the same page we learn and share together our Christian faith and work for inclusion and social justice out of our faith.

The enclosed "Dialogue with God" is a sample of church school work from this past Sunday with the Junior and Youth classes together. The idea and process was sparked by the curriculum that can be easily downloaded from the internet. We simply worked together to develop a prayer for persons in need, who are hungry. It was exciting and rich to share with each other to see on paper what we were feeling in our hearts. We are also developing the practice of stewardship by making two offerings each week, one of money, and the second, of non-perishable foods.

#### DIALOGUE WITH GOD

Father – Holy One

Hear our troubles

Lead me/us in helping us feed the hungry

Bring people together

Help people find work

Help people have strength to get through the day

Love – Amen – So be it

I/We hope this happens

This is a most holy prayer

Thank you, God, for listening

Kate and I are proud of our teaching team and, on behalf of the team, we are inviting/asking you - four or five of you – to step forward and share the teaching work so that all of the teachers can also have time to be in church at least two Sundays a month plus our family service Sunday. Yes, it is proverbial AND TRUE that being a part of the team and sharing with the children of all ages, you may very well receive more than you give in the dynamics of the time of teaching and sharing with them.

You are needed and will be supported in many ways to be comfortable and ready to teach and be blessed.

Kate Martin and Wally Robinson – Co-Church School Superintendents

### **United Methodist Women**

Through the proceeds of our annual Book Fair, Plant Sale, Holiday Wreath sale and King Kullen receipts, donations are given to a variety of non-profit organizations as well as to the needs of the church. .

The following are programs that have received monies from the SBCC UMW in 2009:

Water for Sudan Inc	\$200
Women for Women International	\$500
National Organization for Rare Disorders Designated for APS Type1	\$100
Herstory Writers Workshop	\$100
Central Asia Institute	\$200
Protestant Campus Ministries	\$200

Through our Special Projects Fund we have donated money to the following church project:

Renovation of the community room	\$2,500
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All *pledges* collected are designated to the support of our local unit Pledge to Mission and Mission Giving Plus.

*"An individual member's Pledge to Mission is the amount a woman gives to her local unit to help fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. The conference United Methodist Women pledges a specific amount to the Women's Division for mission with women, children and youth and retains a designated percent to be used for district and conference administration and membership development expenses. Mission Giving Plus are designated gifts that are over and above basic support for mission."*

Total collected pledges for 2009:	\$595
Pledge to Mission	\$295
MGP- A Brighter Future for Women and Children	\$245

Thanks to everyone who has donated KK receipts. King Kullen donates a portion (1%) of receipts to the church.

Special thanks to Elsie Cadacamo and Carol Dettmerring for coordinating this effort.

The UMW has collected over \$800 since 2007 through this program.

### **Upcoming UMW Events**

**Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**- Wreath decorating in the Downstairs Room, Christmas cookie exchanges to follow.

In preparation for the annual wreath sale, UMW wreath decorating will take place on Friday December 11, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the downstairs room of the church. A light supper will be provided. A cookie exchange will be held at 7 p.m. Please bring **3 dozen of one kind of cookie to share** if you wish to participate.

**Dec 12<sup>th</sup>** –Christmas Tree and Wreath sale – volunteers needed

**January 10** – Carry In Holiday Party – at the home of Pastor Liz, starting at 5pm.

Bring your favorite appetizer, entrée or dessert. Sign up sheet will be in the downstairs room.

**February 9** at 7:30pm Gail Chase will again help us decorate and send Valentine cards to spread love and blessings.

Times and dates for the following events TBA

**March** - Book sale

**April** – Plant Sale

**May** - Flower arranging

**June** – UMW Spring dinner

### **UMW Christmas Wreaths Order Form**

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Help support the UMW – purchase your Christmas Wreaths from us! You can purchase the wreaths with a bow or fully decorated. A beautifully decorated wreath can make a lovely gift for friends, family and neighbors!

Orders must be received by Tuesday, December 8th. Wreaths will be available Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**16" Bow Only** **\$18** Quantity\_\_\_\_

**16" Fully Decorated** **\$24** Quantity\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Total amount paid\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: SBCC UMW

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### **New Book Studies**

I'd like to invite you to read **Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortensen and join in a discussion on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at the parsonage (10 William Penn Drive). It is a great story of one man's quest to provide education, particularly for young girls, in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is a fascinating story and so important given our nation's current involvement in these two countries. Several of us have already read the book but I think it is a great one for discussion. Also, there is a youth version of the story and so it would be wonderful to extend this discussion to our youth as well.

The second reading I would recommend is a short story/novella by Henry Van Dyke called **The Other Wiseman**. It is a wonderful read for the Christmas season and I would invite you to discuss it with others on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 p.m. at the parsonage as well.

We will make some decisions about future books at these two meetings. Bring a copy of any suggestions you might have. It should have a theme that leads us to a discussion relevant to our faith.

### **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

The Interfaith Clergy Association has planned the annual Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Temple Isaiah on Stony Brook Rd. Our lay speakers this year will be sharing their experiences as immigrants from diverse religious traditions and their memories of their first Thanksgiving. There will be an adult choir singing "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor". I also am hopeful that a children's choir will be organized.

### **Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale**

**CALLING ALL MEN!** We need volunteers to help with our annual Christmas Tree Sale. We need someone to receive the trees on Friday and several men to set up and sell on Saturday. We also need someone to put up signs a week earlier. The profits from this sale have always gone to Habitat for Humanity and our current project with the Long Island East District still needs funding. The sale will take place on December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-5pm in front of the Sullivan House.

### **Children and Youth**

Pennies From Heaven -- the money that the Sunday School Children have been collecting is being used to sponsor Carlos-a 7 year old boy from Mexico. The Sunday School children will begin writing to Carlos and sending him little gifts. We should be hearing from Carlos himself in about a month or so and will keep the congregation up-to-date. We hope to raise enough money to sponsor a second child soon. Keep saving your loose change for Carlos!

Sue

### **Stewardship**

An open note to Joan, Jim, and Liz - Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastor, respectively.

These times are not fun financially. You know, making ends meet – choices, and all. I'm simply acknowledging you three because I appreciate the work you do in keeping track of the finances of my Beloved Community, near daily, and then notifying me quarterly regarding where I stand with the commitment I made for this year. I know you knew I had a good reason to be away this summer for a few weeks – one of you was with me!!!!, and I am very capable of losing track of what I owe to that commitment. Your work with the quarterly statement with an encouraging note, relaxed me, bringing me current.

Thank you,  
Wally Robinson  
Stewardship Chair

## **STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH 5K HOLIDAY FUN RUN**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009**

(Proceeds to benefit SBCC's outreach programs)

**Race Starts** at 9:00 A.M. Sharp!

**Registration** is between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. on the day of the race inside the Education Building behind the church at 216 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook

### **Race Course**

The challenging 5K course will be in old Stony Brook, beginning and ending at the church. Official timing by Schwab's Second Wind, Setauket, NY.

### **Race Awards:**

Top 3 finishers Male/Female in the Following Age Groups: 19 & under; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70-79; 80 & over (No Duplication of Awards)

*\*All pre-registered runners will receive a T-shirt!*

*\*Walkers are invited to participate in the race!*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 751-0574

Email: [SBCC5K@verizon.net](mailto:SBCC5K@verizon.net)

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### **2009 "5K HOLIDAY FUN RUN" ENTRY FORM**

Mail form and check to: Stony Brook Community Church 5K Run, 216 Christian Ave., Stony Brook, NY 11790

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First

name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State &

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_

Female \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Email address (for award notification, future info) \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of your acceptance of this entry, I, the above signed, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, waive and release any and all claims, demands and causes of action I might otherwise have for damages or otherwise against Stony Brook Community Church (United Methodist) and the agents, employees, representatives, successors and assigns of all the aforementioned organization, for any and all injuries and/or property.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If under 18 years of age, signature of parent or guardian is required)

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## **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

A celebration of our church's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on November 15, 2009. A worship service is being held at 3:30 with a dinner to follow in the Education Building.

As a congregation, we are pleased to be celebrating the hard work and dedication of those who have come before us. We wish to honor them in prayer, song, and in the sharing of our history. Come be a part of this glorious day!

If you did not receive an invitation, a quick call to the church office will give you the information you need or you can use the form below.

In addition to our November 15<sup>th</sup> worship and dinner, our church will be part of the Three Village Candlelight Hour Tour on Friday evening December 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful opportunity to open our doors to the wider community and share the story of our heritage at Stony Brook Community Church!

Not only do you have a chance to attend these celebrations, but there are other ways to participate.

Volunteers are needed to work setting up for both occasions, and to help at the luncheon café on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Again, contact the church office if you wish to join

## **Stony Brook Community Church 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Sunday November 15, 2009

3:30pm

Dinner following service

\$20 adults \$10 children

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of check \_\_\_\_\_

Sorry I cannot attend, but I am including a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to the Stony Brook Community Church

Please return this form no later than November 3.

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