



The Church Herald

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



STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Please send updates and information to
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Living Stones and Being The Church

...you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. ~ Ephesians 2:19-22



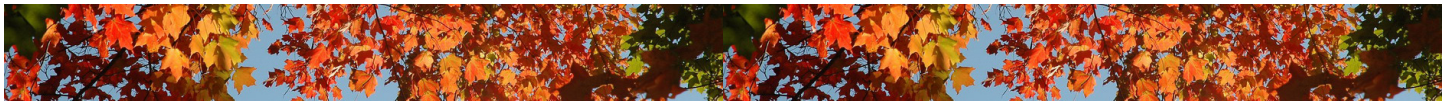
The other day I was sitting in my study here at the church looking out at our beautiful church building. I couldn't help but think of all the hopes and dreams that were fulfilled in its being built over 150 years ago. I couldn't help but think of those who have worked with diligence, out of love for God, to sustain this place and to insure that God's work could be done in and around this place that we call Stony Brook Community Church. I couldn't help but think of all the lives that have been touched and transformed throughout the years. And as I moved my focus toward the cemetery, a constant reminder of the hopes and dreams and very lives that built this church and our community, I could not help but think of the saints of this community who have gone before us.

And, of course, the truth is that we are all a part of that long line of the saints who ministered and learned together, who threw pot luck suppers and events for the community, who built together, with God's help, a community of love, hope, and forgiveness, and thus, healing here in Stony Brook.

~ Continued on next page

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.

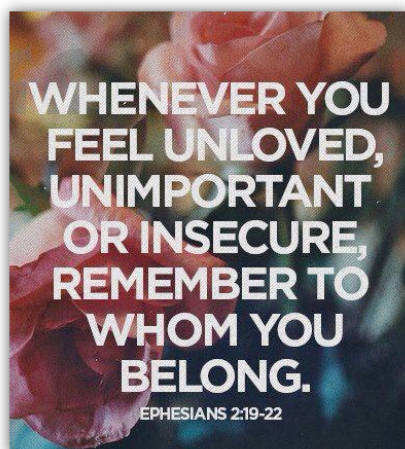


This Sunday I will be citing Ephesians 2 (as part of the message), in which Paul likens the people of the church to “living stones” who together are fit together to be the church of God in this place with “Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.” Paul reminds us that we stand on the shoulders of the saints that have gone before, or as he says: we are “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”

As we enter into this fall season together, as we have begun this new church year together, let us remember, that all that we do, whether it be helping with our upcoming Apple Festival, taking part in our new sermon and study series, rebuilding homes on the south shore, raising money and helping with Habitat for Humanity, singing in the choir, serving on a team or committee, or reaching out and inviting a friend or neighbor to church, it is all a part of what we are called to be; “The Church.” We are called to be God’s people who today continue to realize the dreams of the apostles and prophets of old in this place and continue to prepare a place where lives can be nurtured, healed, forgiven and transformed into the future.

All that we do, in our daily lives and together as the church should speak of God’s goodness and love, not out of obligation, but out of gratitude, thanksgiving for the gift of salvation that was so costly to God in Christ Jesus, yet so freely given to you. Think, just for a moment, about what that means for your life. Our hearts need to be melted and moved to the point that we cannot help but be the church that seeks to live for God and transform lives in the here and now. And we must offer that transforming reality of the gospel to meet everyone; not just some, not just those who are like us, or look like us and think like us, but for all. Look at those whom Jesus constantly met with and ate with: broken, beautifully imperfect people, and sinners just like us – the saints, the Living Stones of the church.

We are God’s Living Stones here on this island of great need reaching out to the world with the compassionate heart of Christ. And as Living Stones, although we cannot be Christ himself, we can learn together to be “Christ-Like” with him as our chief cornerstone. Just as Jesus declared to Peter in Matthew 16, “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” we are part of that church! God’s Living Stones today! That is why we gather at church for worship, that is why we study together, that is why we seek to serve; to be more like Jesus, to be part of the church that he envisioned and gave birth to so long ago. Yet, we must remember, it’s not enough just to come to church, even though that, for many, is where it all may start. We must always seek to BE the CHURCH that Jesus began and infused with his very life blood by the power of the Holy Spirit! For it is by that Spirit, that we, today, can be and become Living Stones joined together for the glory of God in the world and in this place! Let’s look at everything we do, no matter how small, as if it were all for the glory of God. Because as Christ’s followers, as God’s Living Stones, IT IS all to His glory! And that, my sisters and brothers, is who we are called to be! What a joy! What a privilege; to serve with all of you as Gospel believing people all because of God’s amazing call upon our lives, all because of God’s amazing grace!



See you on Sunday!

May God continue to bless you, to be a blessing in God’s world.

Yours in God’s love, joy and hope

Pastor Chuck



Lectionary - October 2013

October 6:

Lamentations 1:1-6

Psalms 37

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 13:

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalms 66:1-12 ;

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 20:

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalms 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 27:

Joel 2:23-32

Psalms 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

November 3:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalms 119:137-144

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

World Communion Sunday

“World Communion Sunday – celebrated the first Sunday in October – is one of the most venerable of ‘special Sundays.’ The day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice – and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God’s earth. On this day we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve – a world ever more in need of peacemaking.” The National Council of Churches

“World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. Scotchtown Presbyterian Church

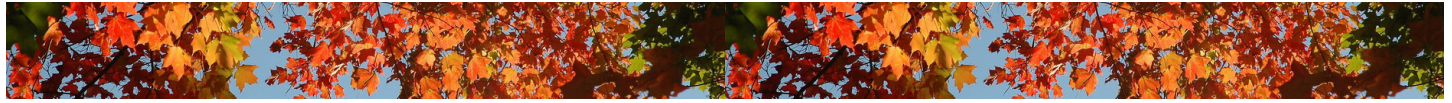
Next Sunday, October 6th, SBCC will join churches around the world in celebrating our diversity submerged in our oneness in Christ. In honor of the varied traditions which we bring to the communion table, please bake or buy a loaf of bread that represents your heritage and bring in to the church kitchen before the service. Then in recognition of the many places we have been, please bring in a cup, mug, goblet, or glass which you obtained while away from home, whether you were away in Selden or Senegal, New York or New Zealand. In Christ there is no East or West...but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.



Music at Stony Brook Community Church

As a new church year begins in September, SBCC is looking forward to expanding its music program. The choir always welcomes new singers (especially sopranos!): you don’t need to know anything – Val and Joan will teach you everything required, and singing next to good strong singers is a wonderful way to learn. The choir makes a point of singing a wide variety of music so you are sure to sign some of your favorites as well as discovering some new music styles.

In addition, those who were in church this summer to hear Leap of Faith, Pastor Chuck’s band from his former church, will be thrilled to know that Pastor Chuck plans to start a similar band here at SBCC.



Lay Helpers Needed!

Your Usher, by Raymond A. Foss

Leading us to our seats,
watching the congregation,
caring for the flock
from the back of the sanctuary,
from the aisles,
sharing the joy of worship
the community of believers
one bulletin, one smile,
one greeting, one handshake
at a time



This poem was written in 2007 in honor of a man who served as an usher at Wesley United Methodist Church in Concord, NH, for 62 years. We are not asking for a 62-year commitment (although we'd be delighted if anyone would care to so commit) but we are looking for some new faces in our lay helper ranks.

Next Sunday when we arrive at church long-term members and first time guests alike will (we hope!):

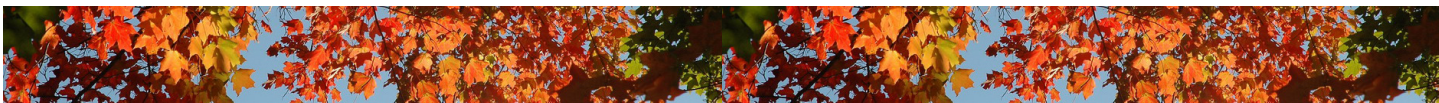
- Be greeted by a friendly face and, if new to SBCC, welcomed to the church.
- Be handed a program by an usher and helped to a seat.
- Hear the Scripture read by lay reader.
- Be reminded of the beauty of God's world by a beautiful floral arrangement.
- And enjoy a time a fellowship in the Community Room after the service.

None of these would take place without the dedicated volunteers who serve as greeters, ushers, readers, flower donors, and fellowship hour hosts. If you enjoy the results of their efforts would you consider becoming one of them?

We'd like to call special attention to our new Readers team:

We are assembling a list of those who would like to read the scripture in worship on Sunday morning. Readers receive the scripture passages in advance and are encouraged to ask for any clarifications or pronunciations they may desire. If this form of ministry appeals to you please speak to Pastor Chuck.





Apple Festival 2013!

Apple Festival 2013 is now just one week away! The pies have been made; the Garden Mart merchandise has been ordered; the musicians have been given their time slots; and volunteers have been signing up for all the many jobs necessary to make the day a success.

It's never too late for you to join co-chairs Pat Martin, Sue Murphy, and Donna Smith in making this year's festival one of the best ever:

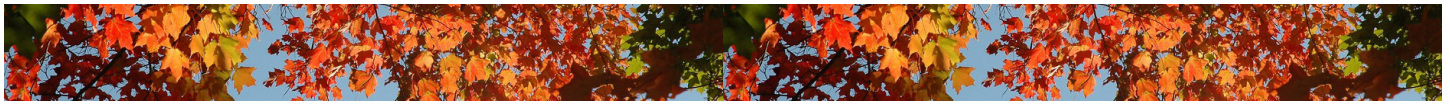
Bake home-made treats for the bake table!

Collect and donate unwanted treasures for the Attic Treasures table!

Tell your friends about the festival. Better still, invite them to come with you!

Stop by the church Friday evening, any time after 5:30, to help with set-up!

And most important of all, Come to the Festival and have a wonderful time!!!



September



"Today you are
you, that is truer
than true. There is
no one alive who is
youer than you."

~ Dr. Seuss



Youth Group Mystery Trip

MYF Teens you ready?!

Hint: We will have fun!

Date to be announced soon!

Monster Mash

Masquerade

Sunday, Oct. 27th

4:00pm

All are welcome!



Alyssa is looking for 4 or 5 adults who would help with Sunday School. They need to have a heart for kids and God! They would alternate every Sunday so it gives everyone a chance to be in worship! No experience is needed, just a willing heart and a love for God!



Interested? Contact Alyssa:
Alyssa-lucille-smith@gmail.com