

March 2009

Church Herald

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

The Pastor's Column

As Lent begins this week, I am reminded of how important it is to take the time to do "soul work". What I mean by this is to adjust the craziness of schedules and tasks and the non-essentials and find some time to reflect deeply, draw out the creative spirit, and do some new prioritizing of my energies.

Some Lenten seasons I do this much better than others. The year that stands out for me as the most significant was the year I decided to "fast" from television. I put a cloth over the TV and didn't watch it for six weeks. It was a fascinating time. Because I was alone, I tended to turn the TV on for "company" as much as anything and watched a lot of mindless entertainment. Now, I'm not trying to be a purist or moralist, I still have my favorite shows and they don't all have redeeming value. However, my experience that year was that I discovered some things that I was missing and that definitely "fed my soul" – with this new found time, I began playing a keyboard with my rudimentary knowledge of piano and then I pulled out my hidden violin. I did much more reading. I wrote a journal as I was working through a particularly difficult time in ministry and discovered some new paths to work on "the problem". I had more time to connect with some friends and some parishioners. It really was a significant time.

All that being said, you would think that I would repeat it. I never have with the same kind of discipline. However, each Lent there is something that I have "given up" and something that I have "taken on" that has made a difference in my spiritual journey.

Our District Superintendent, Adrienne Brewington, has invited the clergy of her district to join in a Lenten fast accompanied by a commitment to practice more deliberate disciplines of prayer and study. It's not a one size fits all fast, which I appreciate. Each of us is asked to think about what will make the difference in our ministries. I am in my own process of discernment about what that will look like for me.

So, I also offer the invitation to you, and I offer to help you in your discernment. What can you do differently in these six weeks that will draw you closer to God, will feed your soul, and equip you to better live out the Way of Love? Even a small step may make a huge difference.

May these Lenten days remind us of the gift of Jesus who lived, died, and was raised for our sakes.

With Peace,
Pastor Liz

Stewardship

Not Like Family, But Indeed Family

*to be continuously
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The Church is not just like family, but is indeed a family, which follows, in our marvelous, different, and wondrous ways, the way of Jesus. I greet you all to keep before us all our need to be continuously vigilant of our stewardship of the incredible gifts God keeps dropping in our laps in good times and in our moments of struggle and pain.

I have been encouraged at Church Council meetings when Kim and Jeff report that we are on track with giving in these tough times. We are faithful. Joan's helpful note relating to my pledge last year prompted me to catch up this last Sunday.

All this note says is that we are blessed constantly by each other and by God and are responding with thanks in so many ways. As our blessings grow, and our ministry expands in the world that God loves so much, just know that our hands, checks, nickels, dimes and bills are all building and sustaining the kingdom of love and justice in our Stony Brook community and the whole wide world that God - our Holy Friend - embraces constantly.

Wally Robinson,
Stewardship Chair

Treasurers Report

2008 Congregational Giving:

Budget \$93,927.00

Actual \$88,642.04

Shortfall (\$ 5,284.96)

January 2009

Congregational Giving	\$5,530.00
Total Income	\$19,583.60
Total Expenses	\$20,463.74
Shortfall	(\$880.14)

Celebrating 200 years

Methodist 101

A Segment of History – “After the Beginning”

As you should be well aware, Stony Brook Community Church traces its origins to 1809 when Deborah Davis organized a class meeting in her home and invited Circuit Riding preachers to come to Stony Brook.

Tracing a little more of our history with each issue, we will look at the next 50 years leading up to the building our present structure.

It seems that they continued to meet in the Davis home until a small church was erected in 1817 by several denominations with a predominant membership of Methodists. Following a revival in Cow Harbor (Northport), there was rapid growth in Stony Brook. William Jewett and Fitch Reed were the preachers at the time. For a long time Stony Brook was part of the Smithtown Circuit, but then, sometime prior to 1848 split off and was linked with Port Jefferson, Mt. Sinai, and Setauket.

In 1859, it was recorded that there was a membership of 75, with an incredible Sunday School of 202 members (both children and adults). That reminds us of how seriously they took Christian education and one had to participate for a while before committing to membership. There had been another revival, in the spring of 1843, which accounted for this new growth. A new pastor, Daniel Jones, was appointed and the church became incorporated as the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Daniel Jones, the preacher, was responsible for raising the funds, paying the bills, developing the architectural design, supervising the work of Nathan Oakes, the carpenter, obtaining the materials and doing much of the labor! (I wonder when he had time to preach, visit, and evangelize).

So, we have inherited this beautiful building in which we worship today.

News and Notes

UMW Book Sale

On Saturday, March 21, 2009, the UMW will be holding its annual Used Book Sale.

It is a day full of books at reasonable prices and scrumptious cafe treats!

We rely on donations of gently used, popular fiction/nonfiction. So, please start searching your bookshelves and pass the word around!

Donate your old books to benefit the UMW's book sale

There will be boxes in the Community Room to put your book donations into.

Supplies for Sunday School

On behalf of the Sunday School, I wanted to thank everyone who has made a monetary donation or donated supplies! The Sunday school teachers and helpers work hard weekly. A great help to their lessons are supplies to assist the children in understanding what is being taught. We are quite low on supplies and ask the parents of the children and the congregation for a supply or monetary donation. It would be very helpful in making sure the kids get the most out of their Sundays with us. If you have any questions, please see Kate.

Introducing the "New" Kids' Newsletter!

As many of you know, the first copy of the new kids newsletter went out a few weeks ago. It is called 'Kids Chronicle'. It is a tool to keep everyone up-to-date on the goings-on of the Sunday School, MYF, holiday parties, etc. Basically, anything youth related. It is also a place that kids can turn in articles of their own to show their work or voice their opinion.

It will be disbursed monthly and available church wide. (You do not have to have a child in the church to receive it). I hope you enjoy!

News and Notes cont..

Children's Easter Party

Saturday April 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Please join us in the Education Building for Easter fun!! We'll make a craft, play some games, dye some eggs and of course, will have our famous Easter Egg Hunt.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Community Room -- or you can contact Sue Murphy via email at smurphy52@optonline.net or call her at 631-871-2368.

*Mark your calendar!
Children's Easter
Party Sat April 11,
10:30 -12 noon.*

Friends are always welcome !!

Don't forget your Easter basket!!!

MYF

On February 15th, the MYF held its Annual Valentino Night Spaghetti Supper -- thank you to all who attended!

Op- Shop

The Op Shops new hours are:

Mon-Tuesday: closed
Wed-Thursday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Friday- Sat 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Sun: closed

Volunteers are needed!

If your interested please call the Op shop during regular business hours @ 631-751-9733 or the church office @ (631) 751-0574.

Vacation Bible School

The Community Vacation Bible School program is scheduled for the week of July 13 through the 17th

This is a wonderful program that our church has been participating in for many years.

Watch the monthly newsletter and church bulletin for more details and registration information as it becomes available.

SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

March 1, 2009

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

March 8, 2009

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31 (UMH 752)

Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

March 15, 2009

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19 (UMH 750)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 22, 2009

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (UMH 830)

Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 29, 2009

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 (UMH 785)

Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Lenten/Easter Schedule

Lenten Café:

Beginning on Wednesday, March 4th and continuing on Wednesdays through April 1st, we will gather for our Lenten Café: soup and bread to be served at 6:30 pm with a program from 7- 8:30 and a short quiet worship service to end the evening.

The theme will be "Talking with God" and similar to last year, will begin with a 25-30 minute video followed by discussion. All are welcome. We will need hosts to provide the meal each week. There is a sign up sheet in the Community Room.

*Join us for soup
and spirituality at
the Lenten Study.*

Holy Week: Palm Sunday will be April 5th

Maundy Thursday Communion on April 9th, 8 pm

Interfaith Good Friday Service, 12-3 (place to be announced)

Children's Easter Party, Saturday, April 11th

Easter Sunrise service, 6:30 a.m. on the Stony Brook Village Green

Easter Celebration, 10 am in the Sanctuary

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2009 Summer Performing Arts Program

@ the Stony Brook Community Church

The PERFORMING ARTS CAMP is a Musical Theatre Workshop for Ages 7 to 15, that includes Acting, Voice, Dance, Improvisation and Rehearsals for an Open House Performance of an abridged Musical Theatre Production on the last day of each session.

The cost is \$495 per session with a 10% discount for siblings and double-sessions.

To register, down load an enrollment form at the church website:

<http://www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org/>

and mail it along with a \$100 non-refundable deposit to Performing Arts Camp@ Stony Brook Community Church, 216 Christian Ave., Stony Brook, NY 11790.

For further questions, please contact Sherrill Jones at performingartscamp@gmail.com or phone 631-751-6740.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org/>

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