

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

Approaching the Holiday Season: Holiday or Holy Day?

Halloween is past, and while we've been finding Christmas decorations in the stores since August, now is the time when we gear up for Thanksgiving through Christmas. How are we going to approach this time this year?

Thanksgiving has always been an important day for me. Partly because I'm so busy at Christmas, that

Thanksgiving is the time that I get to

gather with some of my family and friends. For years, when my parents were alive, I hosted Thanksgiving at my house and I loved it.

My sister's family was thrilled not to have to join the thousands traveling to L.I. for the day. I love Thanksgiving worship because it is the one opportunity for persons of many different faiths to gather and offer thanks to the Divine Power of their lives – it's not a "Christian Holiday," so it isn't about adapting – it is about appreciating our differences while gathering in common gratitude for life. It is a day of the senses – wonderful food smells, colors and tastes; a pre-dinner or post-dinner walk in the woods or around the neighborhood; game playing or football watching; storytelling.

Part of me has always been torn about Thanksgiving between this picture of family bliss and another call to help at a soup kitchen or host a community gathering for both the hungry and the lonely. Is that where you are being called this year?

Along with its joy, Thanksgiving also can be the trigger for grieving what isn't the same year after year. It begins a season of grief for those who are no longer gathered around the table; it can be a season of yearning for personal relationships to be different. It is always a hard season for the unemployed, but this year the economic anxiety has spread far and wide. Recognizing our own or one another's pain in the midst of a season that puts all the emphasis on joy is one of the best gifts we can offer one another.

There is a tradition that I have found helpful: It is called "Blue Christmas" or "Longest Night." It is a service of worship early in

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UMW Corner

The United Methodist Women elected the following officers at their November meeting: President, Virginia Sassano; Treasurer, Vicki Jutkiewicz; and Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Martin. In addition, \$1,150 raised during the UMW's Pledge to Missions Campaign was disbursed to the District UMW for the following designated areas: a brighter future for children and youth, \$200; racial justice, \$150; social action/advocacy, \$150; environmental justice, \$150; women's issues, \$150 and health, \$150. The remaining \$200 went to the larger Pledge to Missions campaign.

The UMW's annual wreath decorating event will take place on Friday, Dec. 12, beginning at 4 p.m., in the Community Room. All the women of the church are invited to attend. Please bring wire cutters, scissors and any Christmas picks and small decorations you may wish to contribute. A light supper will be served, followed by the annual cookie exchange at 7 p.m.

Celebrate Christmas at the Parsonage



**Sunday, December 14
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

**10 William Penn Drive
Stony Brook**

**Please R.S.V.P. by December 10:
689-2986 or 751-0659.**

Word and Worship for December

Sunday, Nov. 30

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



Sunday, Dec. 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, Dec. 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, Dec. 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sunday, Dec. 28

First Sunday after

Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Another successful SBCC Apple Festival!

Our annual Apple Festival, held on October 4, was successful once again! The weather ultimately cooperated, and while we may not have had record-breaking crowds, we did have very good attendance. Happily, everything went smoothly. We realized a profit of over \$8,600 – a fine day, indeed!

This is such an important event for us. More than any other time of the year, we come together as an entire congregation to plan this incredible event and to showcase the Stony Brook Community Church to the larger community. Participation crosses gender and age lines. It is an accomplishment that helps define us as a dedicated, involved, caring and supportive community of faith.

The members of the Fair Committee are integral to the success of the festival. Without each person handling her responsibilities effectively, this wouldn't be the festival that it is and has become. Thank you to Pastor Liz, Elsie Cadicamo, Joan Cutler, Carol Dettmering, Michele Dexter, Kim Harshman, Vicki Jutkiewicz, Beth Lunde, Kate Martin, Sue Murphy, Donna Smith and Maureen Tangen. It has been my privilege to work with each of you. I am proud to say we are a connected and cohesive group.



Pat Martin, who has chaired the Apple Festival for 25 years, shown at this year's fair. The congregation honored Pat for her many years of service during worship the following day.



From left: Kate Martin, Jeff Harshman, Kim Harshman, Jack Martin and Donna Smith man (and wo-man) the grilling station.

So it is the end of my tenure as chairman of the fair. I thank the congregation for the fine finale you gave me during worship the day after the event! I truly appreciate your gifts and kind words. What a treasure the book is! You all have been so supportive over the years. You have thanked me for the job I have done each year, yet your affirmation and appreciation have returned to me tenfold what I have been able to do for you. It is with profound appreciation that I thank you all . . .

– Pat Martin

A Letter from Bishop Jeremiah Park on the Economy

October 15, 2008

*Let thy steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
Even as we hope in thee" (Psalm 33:22)*

Dear United Methodists of the New York Area:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Not since the Great Depression has the world economy experienced such turmoil and uncertainty as it has recently. All around us there is confusion, fear, anxiety, depression and anger. Economic stresses are affecting our families profoundly. Many people in our churches are suffering real pain. Not least, the poorest among us who know suffering on a daily basis are rendered even more vulnerable to shrinking financial resources, opportunities and compassion. And then there are those who live in extreme poverty. The plight of those who make up half of the world's population, living on less than two dollars a day, is the bleakest of all as the world economic downturn will inevitably impact their lives most severely.

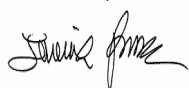
As people of faith, this is the time for holy boldness with holy imagination. Now is not the time to hold on in fear, but the time to give witness that our God cares. Now is not the time to shrink from the scare of scarcity, but to open our arms to the hurting people in our community and the world in witness to the abundance of God's love and compassion. Now is not the time to turn inward, but the time to reach out and touch lives with the good news of the reign of God. As the feast of indulgence of Wall Street is over, let the feast of the kingdom of God flourish. Jesus said:*one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions* (Luke 12:15)*seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness* (Matthew 6:33).

God is *our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home*. Indeed, the steadfastness of God's love and faithfulness towards us endures forever. Though the mountains shake, waters roam and foam, nations rage and kingdoms totter, the God who is *our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble* (Psalm 46:1) is with us. Our God, who is concerned about the wellbeing of God's children more than anyone else, is ever close to us in this time of trial.

I pray that our people will find compassion and comfort, strength and courage, faith and hope in the vision and values of God's kingdom in our church for such a time as this.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *For everything there is a season*. This tumultuous time will also pass. God's people, take heart. Keep the faith. Let us put our hope in the Lord *both now and forevermore* (Psalm 131:3).

In Christ,



Jeremiah J. Park

Come celebrate Christmas with your SBCC family

Our church community will celebrate the birth of our savior this year with a full array of activities – from wreath decorating and a children's pageant to community caroling and a living nativity.

- **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** will take place during worship service on Sunday, Nov. 30. *Sanctuary*
- **The Blue Christmas Service**, for those struggling with sadness, grief and anxiety that make the holiday season difficult, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. *Sanctuary*
- **UMW Wreath Decorating** begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12. All the women of the church are invited to join them. Come anytime. Soup and bread supper, followed by the UMW's **Annual Cookie Exchange** at 7 p.m. *Community Room*
- **Our Holiday 5K Fun Run** through old Stony Brook steps off promptly at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13. Runners can register beginning at 7:30 a.m. Proceeds support our outreach programs. *SBCC*
- **The Annual Christmas Tree, Wreath and Greens Sale** will begin immediately following the Fun Run on Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The sale benefits Habitat for Humanity. *Front Lawn of Sullivan House*
- Pastor Liz will host an **Open House at the Parsonage** 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14. R.S.V.P. by Dec. 10. *10 William Penn Dr., Stony Brook*
- **The Children's Christmas Party** will take place Saturday, Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m. - noon. Crafts, games, Christmas songs, refreshments, Santa. *Community Room*
- Don't miss the **Living Nativity**, presented by the Methodist Youth Fellowship, prior to the children's pageant, 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., on Dec. 21. *Front Lawn of Church.*
- The Sunday School children will present this year's pageant, **"Live from the Streets of Bethlehem,"** on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. *Sanctuary*
- We'll share a light supper (donations to cover costs gratefully accepted!) following the children's pageant and then go **Caroling in the Neighborhood**, ending up at the Murphys' home for cookies and hot cocoa. All are welcome.
- Finally, join us for **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. We end service with a cherished SBCC tradition: singing "Silent Night" together just outside the church.



Merry Christmas!

Focus on stewardship

To say the least, I have found my church home at Stony Brook Community Church, and I am happy to be the new stewardship chairperson with all of the people in my church family.

I am growing to understand stewardship to be the business of taking care of the incredible gifts that have been given to you and me as a sacred trust: time, money, talents, and so many more intangibles, including each other and our community and world. All these gifts are given to each one of us to assist us in growing the kingdom of love and wholeness and peace. This is our sacred call.

At the Charge Conference on October 27, our new district superintendent asked a simple question that lit a fire under all of us gathered: If money were no object, what would we do to grow that kingdom? With ease and excitement, we all just entered a state of holy and sacred imagination. We felt the power to dream with the spirit flowing free and fast in our hearts and souls.

That's where I am going as we counsel and imagine and discern together: how we take care of – how we are stewards of – the great gifts we have been given by God as a sacred trust to grow the kingdom right here, right now.

So WOW!! Look about and within and notice all the gifts of money, time, talent, skills, friendships, minds, hearts and souls that make up our life together, and let's rejoice together in their possibilities. I sense a flame burning, and the Spirit working, with the smallest business to the greatest dreams before us.

– *Wally Robinson*



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the season that acknowledges grief, emotional struggling and anxiety. It has helped people to express those sad feelings brought on by the season. I will begin our Advent season by offering such a service on Tuesday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

I hope Advent and Christmas will bring each of us a time of focusing once again on God's remarkable choice to offer Jesus to live among us in order to show us the abundance of living a life of compassion. Through our Sunday worship, Christmas Pageant, Caroling and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we will anticipate the miracle of love. This is a wonderful season to consider coming back to church if you have gotten out of the habit, or if you come regularly, to extend the invitation to someone else.


Finally, let me extend an invitation to come to the parsonage (10 William Penn Drive, Stony Brook) for a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 14, 4-8 p.m. Please RSVP before December 10 so I have some idea of numbers.

May this season bring you deep joy.

Elizabeth



December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sunday, Nov. 30 Lighting of the Advent Wreath during Worship		<u>Blue Christmas</u> <u>Service, 7:30 p.m.</u>	<u>Taizé Worship</u> <u>7 p.m.</u>	6 p.m., AA <u>Chancel Choir Reh.</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u>	10 a.m., Al-Anon	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<u>Worship, Eucharist</u> <u>& Sunday School</u> <u>10 a.m.</u> <u>Fellowship, 11 a.m.</u> <u>MYF, 6 p.m.</u>	7 p.m., AA <u>Board of Trustees,</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u>	<u>Finance Comm.,</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u>	<u>Taizé Worship</u> <u>7 p.m.</u>	6 p.m., AA <u>Chancel Choir Reh.</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u>	10 a.m., Al-Anon <u>UMW Wreath</u> <u>Decorating, 4 p.m.</u> <u>UMW Cookie Swap,</u> <u>7 p.m.</u>	<u>5K Fun Run, 9 a.m.</u> <u>Tree, Wreath &</u> <u>Greens Sale,</u> <u>10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</u>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<u>Worship & Sunday</u> <u>School, 10 a.m.</u> <u>Fellowship, 11 a.m.</u> <u>Parsonage Open</u> <u>House, 4 - 8 p.m.</u> Deadline for Poinsettia Orders	7 p.m., AA	<u>Church Council</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u>	<u>Taizé Worship</u> <u>7 p.m.</u>	6 p.m., AA <u>Chancel Choir Reh.</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u>	10 a.m., Al-Anon	<u>Children's Christmas</u> <u>Party</u> <u>10:30 a.m. - Noon</u>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<u>Worship & SS, 10 a.m.</u> <u>Living Nativity, 4:30.</u> <u>Pageant, 5 p.m.</u> <u>Community caroling</u> <u>to follow.</u>	7 p.m., AA		<u>Candlelight</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>Service, 7:30 p.m.</u>	 Christmas	10 a.m., Al-Anon	
28	29	30	31			
<u>Worship & Sunday</u> <u>School, 10 a.m.</u> <u>Fellowship, 11 a.m.</u>	7 p.m., AA		New Year's Eve			

2009 CHURCH OFFICERS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson: Beth Lunde

Lay Leader
Lay Members to Annual Conference

Reserve Members to Annual Conference

Secretary, Church Council
Membership Secretary
Financial Secretary
Church Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Superintendents of Sunday School

Education Work Area
Worship Work Area
Stewardship Work Area
Social Concerns
Nursery Coordinator
Children & Youth Coordinator
Communications Coordinator
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair
Finance Chair
Board of Trustees President
UMW President
UMYF Representatives

Patricia Martin
Michele Dexter

Sherrill Jones
Beth Lunde
Donna Smith

Joan Cutler
*Kim Harshman
James Murphy
Kate Martin
Wally Robinson
Virginia Sassano
Michele Dexter
Wally Robinson
Donna Smith
Christine Marino
Susan Murphy
Vicki Jutkiewicz
Pat Martin

Carolyn Martin
Virginia Sassano
Matt Harshman
Erik Tangen
Christina Suazo
Justin Suazo

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Class of 2009
Henry Poor
Chuck Perretti
Sue Trawick
Malcolm Bowman

Class of 2010
Maureen Tangen
Elsie Cadicamo
Gail Chase

Class of 2011
Cindy Cadicamo
Sharon Cuff
Robin Corsello
Debra Smith
Marisa Borek

ORGANIZATIONS

United Methodist Women, President
United Methodist Women, Treasurer

Virginia Sassano
Vicki Jutkiewicz

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2009
Bert Cadicamo
Gail Chase
Lindsay Meyer

Class of 2010
Jim Graham
Diana Reaven
Mark Marino

Class of 2011
Carolyn Martin
Jeff Harshman
Malcolm Bowman

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Pat Martin

Class of 2009
Joan Cutler
Sherrill Jones
Christine Marino

Class of 2010
Michele Dexter
Malcolm Bowman
Mark Cadicamo

Class of 2011
Donna Smith
Jerry Meyer

**To be replaced*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: _____

Financial Secretary: Joan Cutler

Lay Leader: Pat Martin

Chairperson of Church Council: Beth Lunde

Members at Large: Peter Lunde (others to be added)

Lay Member of Annual Conference

Trustee Treasurer: Jeff Harshman

Church Treasurer: Kim Harshman

Assistant Treasurer: Jim Murphy

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: *Jim Murphy

COMMITTEE ON LAY NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson: The Pastor

Vice Chairperson: Pat Martin

Class of 2009

Sue Trawick

Henry Poor

Class of 2010

Donna Smith

Beth Lunde

Class of 2011

Elsie Cadicamo

Sharon Cuff

Maureen Tangen

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carolyn Graham

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Chairpersons: Joan Fraccalvieri and Susan Trawick

Susan Murphy, Carolyn Martin, Patricia Martin, Lindsay Meyer, Vicki Jutkiewicz,

Henry Poor and Becky Small

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Waveney Bowman

Waveney Bowman, Joan Wingerter, Christine Free, Sherrill Jones, Christine Marino and Henry Poor

ALTAR FLOWER COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Elsie Cadicamo

Diana Reaven, Ethel Courtney, Joan Fraccalvieri and Joan Cutler

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Gail Chase

Carolyn Martin (Trustee President) Pat Martin (SPRC Chair/Rep.)

HISTORY AND RECORDS

Stanley Mortensen

GREETERS COORDINATOR

Sherrill Jones

USHER COORDINATOR

Robert Chase

MEMORIAL GIFT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Elsie Cadicamo

Class of 2009

Maureen Tangen

Ethel Courtney

Albert Cadicamo

Class of 2010

Elsie Cadicamo

Duane Hix

Class of 2011

Barbara Shewan

Bob Chase

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE (Open to all interested persons)*Below is a partial list of those who have agreed to serve so far:*

Donna Smith

Judy Estes

Elsie Cadicamo

Susan Lane

Lindsay Meyer

Sue Murphy

Sarah Murphy

Maureen Tangen

Wally Robinson

It's poinsettia time!

Help decorate the altar of the church for Christmas this year by purchasing a beautiful red and/or white poinsettia plant. The cost is \$10 per plant.

After Christmas, you can take your poinsettia home to enjoy. To purchase your plant/s, call the Church Office at 751-0574. Orders must be placed by December 14.



New Herald Editor

Beginning with the January 2009 issue, Vicki Jutkiewicz will be taking over the helm of *The Church Herald*. I have enjoyed serving as editor for the past almost two years and wish Vicki all the best as she assumes this responsibility. Watch for announcements about where to send your news items from now on. Thanks for all your help and support! — **Susan Perretti**