



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
Newsletter Editor, Bob Retnauer, at
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From the Pastor:

As you are well aware, I was on study leave during the month of January. It was a glorious month. Wally and I rented a house on Martha's Vineyard (Massachusetts) and spent the time reading, walking, worshipping in several different traditions, had some wonderful opportunities to visit with my sister face to face and to our surprise, there were ample opportunities to go to the movies. Our reading stretched from four mysteries written by a Unitarian Universalist Minister, Judith Campbell, to our focused reading. Wally's favorite book was "Seven Ways to Listen" by Mark Nepo and as you'll find below, I concentrated on Christianity After Religion by Diana Butler Bass. Other books were interspersed along the way. I loved Barbara Kinsolver's newest novel, Flight Behavior.

My main study focus for the month was to design a preaching series for the season of Lent. I started out by attending a Webinar hosted by Luther Seminary in Minnesota. I was somewhat disappointed with the professor's treatment of the Lenten gospels (although I found his work on the Easter passages well worth the seminar) and so I needed to look elsewhere for inspiration. In that search I came upon the work of a Lutheran bishop. He had found a way to link those Gospel readings to a book that I had read last year. Diana Butler Bass, an Episcopal priest and a sociologist has written several books about the trends of spirituality in the 21st Century. Her book, Christianity After Religion, speaks to the change and spiritual awakening happening in our world today. We will be exploring the reality that while there is evidence of a keen interest in things spiritual, we do not see the fruits of this awakening in our congregation. We are not alone. I hope that this look at the discoveries of recent trends will challenge us to think creatively about our ministry.

The five sermon titles in the series will be:

- February 17 - "Testing Our Baptism"
- February 24 - "Along the Way"
- March 3 - "A Tale of Two Cities"
- March 10 - "God's Work, Our Hands"
- March 17 - "Fragrances"



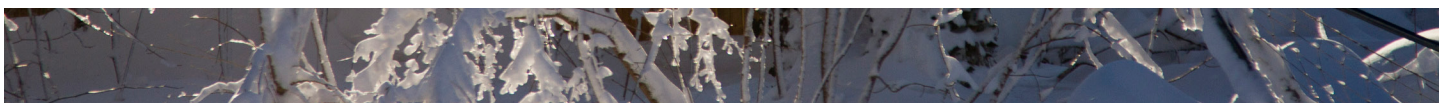
I hope you will join us in worship and for the Wednesday night Soup and Study gatherings when we will explore Adam Hamilton's Seeing Gray: Where Faith and Politics Meet.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Liz

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.



Lectionary, Lent 2013

February 17, First Sunday in Lent:

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 24, Second Sunday in Lent:

Psalms 27

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 3, Third Sunday in Lent

Psalms 63:1-8

Exodus 3:1-15

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 10, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalms 32

Joshua 5:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 17, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalms 126

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

To Go with the Lenten Study Flyer; These are the weekly sessions:

February 20th – Where Faith and Politics Meet

February 27th – Christ, Christians, and the Culture Wars

March 3rd – How Should We Live? The Ethics of Jesus

March 10th – Spiritual Maturity and Seeing Gray

March 17 – What Would Jesus Say to America?

Participant Study Guides are available for \$8.00. See Rev. Braddon



CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS

Rev. Braddon will be leading a confirmation class for any interested youth in seventh grade and above. We will be using the DVD series called "Reform" that was used in 2011 as well as other resources. The first class will be on Sunday, February 17th from 6:30 – 8 pm and there will continue every Sunday (with a couple of exceptions) until June 2nd. So far, five youth have signed up for this year's class. We are asking each youth to contribute \$25 for the class materials. Please bring it to the first class.



As most of us know, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. It is a moveable fast, falling on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter; this year it falls on February 13. As the Gospels tell us, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting (Sundays are not included in Lent, so although Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter Lent is only 40 days long). Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.

SBCC will observe Ash Wednesday with both a day-long prayer vigil and with an interchurch supper and communion service:

Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil: This year there will be three ways to participate in our annual Ash Wednesday prayer vigil. You may, as always, sign up and come in to the sanctuary to pray. If you are unable to come in to the church for any reason, you may sign up to be a part of the vigil praying at any alternate location at your designated time. Finally, if your schedule makes a specific time commitment difficult, you may sign up to join the vigil “In the Spirit,” praying when and where you can.

The Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service of Communion and Ashes: This annual interchurch event will take place at St. James UMC Church and will begin with a soup and bread supper at 7:00 p.m. followed by the communion service and the imposition of ashes at 8:00. Please join our neighbors in our sister churches for this special service marking the start of Lent.



The SBCC UMW met on Feb. 5 for our annual Valentine workshop.



"Souper" Bowl Sunday!

\$36 dollars was raised for

Coram Ministries!

Congratulations to the Ravens!



Events



Sunday, February 17th at 2:00pm, an ice skating trip will be! Everyone is welcome!

We will be going to Happague and their indoor skating rink! If you have any questions, please contact me!



Calling ALL Performers!

Talent Night

Coming in March!



Do you have a talent that you would like to perform in front of the Congregation?

Do you sing?

Do you dance?

Do you play an instrument?

Do you do stand-up comedy?

Do you draw?

Can you make balloon animals?

If so, contact Alyssa and she will sign you up for the Talent Night we are planning to hold in March!



THREE VILLAGE COMMUNITY GARDEN SHOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 9th 2013

10 AM to 5 PM

AT STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

INDOOR PRESENTATIONS

**GOALS: SHAKE OFF WINTER BLUES
RAISE AWARENESS OF LOCAL NON-PROFITS**

**GARDEN DISPLAYS AND PLANT SALES, NON-PROFIT
INFORMATIONAL TABLES, AND VENDORS MARKET**

The first Three Village Community Garden Show will take place Saturday, March 9th, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., produced by Meals on Wheels and sponsored by SBCC. The show will be a gardener's paradise, with information on local resources; a marketplace with vendors, speakers, plant sales & displays; music; and general informational tables. Tours of our beloved and historic Stony Brook Community Church are scheduled from 11:00 – 3:00 (more volunteer tour helpers would be deeply appreciated). We will be collecting nonperishable food for St. James R.C. soup kitchen and pet supplies for Save A Pet. Suggested donation: \$5.00.

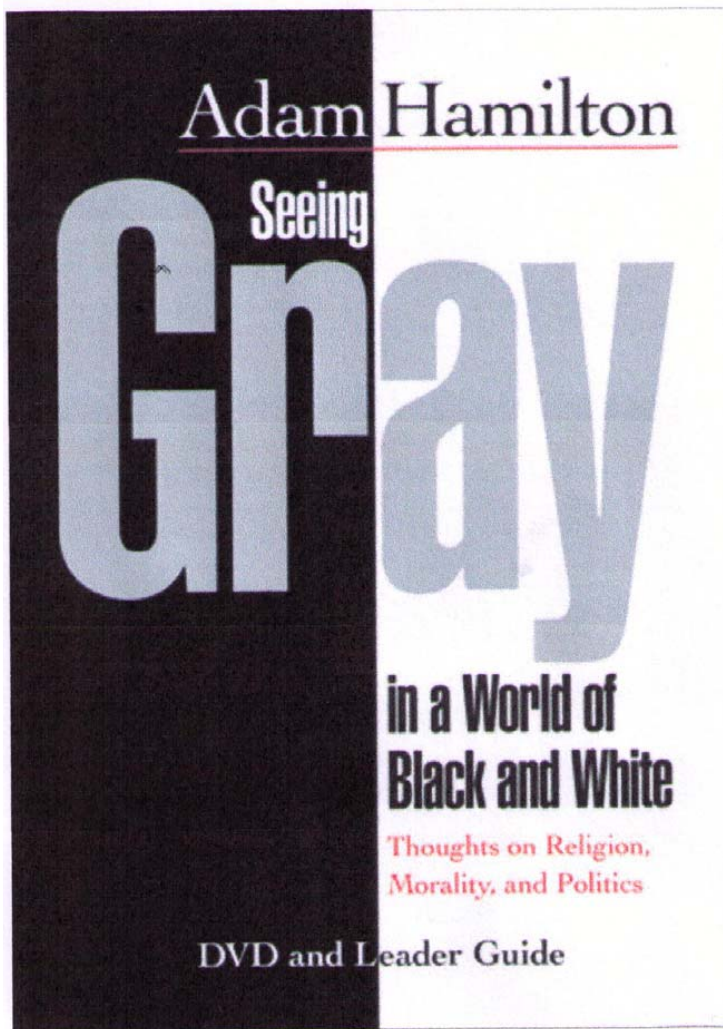
PLEASE CONTACT RONNIE

At

3VCOMMUNITYGARDEN@GMAIL.COM

OR 246-5733





Please join us
for
Lenten Soup Nights
at
**Stony Brook
Community Church**
216 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook

Wednesday evenings
February 20th and 27th,
March 3rd, 13th, and 20th
6:30 for the soup supper
7:00 for the discussion

All are welcome!

Please sign up in the Community
Room or call the church office
(9:00-12:30, Monday – Friday) for
more information or to indicate
you will be coming so we will have
enough soup for everyone.

Everyone agrees that America is polarized, with ever-hardening positions held by people less and less willing to listen to one another. No one agrees on what to do about it.

One solution that hasn't yet been tried, says Adam Hamilton, is for thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

Hamilton writes, "I don't expect you to agree with everything I've written. I expect that in the future even I won't agree with everything I've written here. The point is not to get you to agree with me, but to encourage you to think about what you believe. In the end I will be inviting those of you who find this book resonates with what you feel is true to join the movement to pursue a middle way between the left and the right – to make your voices heard, and to model for our nation and for our church how we can listen, learn, see truth as multi-sided, and love those with whom we disagree."

Please join us for these five evenings of simple food, good fellowship, and stimulating discussions of this important and very timely topic. People of every (or no) faith and political persuasion are welcome.