

The Church Herald

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



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Please send updates and information to Newsletter Editor, Bob Retnauer, at bobretnauer@optimum.net

FROM THE PASTOR...

As you read this, I will have begun a month's study leave. Wally and I (and Moses) have rented a "quaint" house on Martha's Vineyard. Thank you for this opportunity to have this time away from the regular duties of pastoral ministry. I look forward to the month as a time for deep reflection, preparing for Lent, and reading a number of books that I have partially explored but have not had a chance to study thoroughly. Of course, there will also be some novels in the mix as well.

It is recommended that pastors take a month's study leave every four years of their ministry. This is actually my first in 37 years! I choose January because it seemed to be the least obtrusive in the church calendar. My thanks to those who will be preaching and to Rev. Sandra Mantz of Setauket UMC for covering any pastoral care emergencies.

Our first preacher for the month will be Rev. Erik Rasmussen, pastor of Central Islip UMC, on January 6th. Erik grew up in the Stony Brook Community Church and has been wanting to return for years. I hope you will be there to greet him. On January 13th and 20th, Mr. Wayne Redman will be preaching. Wayne has been here often and is always inspiring. On January 27th, Joe Betz will be preaching. He'll be offering a sermon on Nicodemus that he's been thinking about since last summer.

May the new year bring you many blessings.

Fondly, 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.





The Lectionary for Epiphany, 2013

January 6, The Epiphany: Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

January 13, First Sunday after the Epiphany: Psalm 29 Isaiah 43: 1-7 Acts 8 14-17 Luke 3:15-16,21-22

January 20, Second Sunday after the Epiphany: Psalm 36: 5-10 Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

January 27, Third Sunday after the Epiphany: Psalm 19
Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

February 3, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 71: 1-6 Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

February 10, Last Sunday after the Epiphany: Psalm 99 Exodus 34:29-35 1 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2 Luke 9:28-36,(37-43a)

February 17, First Sunday in Lent: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13





December Happenings

It was a busy December. We sent out Early Response work teams the first weekend, decorated the sanctuary, held our Holiday 5K Fun Run, and the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale all within the first 10 days. That was followed by our annual Children's Christmas Pageant. Unfortunately, it was raining and we were not able to do our neighborhood Christmas Caroling this year. The season was capped with our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Many thanks to all those who made each of the events a success.



















Each year Stony Brook Community Church observes Ash Wednesday—which this year falls on February 13th—with a prayer vigil from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. often followed by an interchurch soup supper and service of worship.

The vigil offers an opportunity for prayer and contemplation in the sanctuary as quiet religious music plays in the background. Starting the first of February there will be a sign up sheet for the prayer vigil in the Community Room.

A couple SBCC members who participated in last year's prayer vigil offered their thoughts:

"What makes the prayer vigil on Ash Wednesday meaningful for me is the way - indescribably spirit-filled - that I am drawn to be in the holy place of sanctuary. I had not signed up this year, but heard about times that weren't taken and found myself in my car driving to the vigil for myself and to physically be in contact with church at its core. A powerfully holy time. I am always moved to focus on ways I can be holy - in the midst of all the things that seem to be on my plate at the time - and truly feel drawn into a refreshing place of centeredness of listening to my soul speak to me."

~ Wally Robinson

"Really glad to have the opportunity to be in meditative silence in the sanctuary with inspiring music from the varied selection. It was a beautiful time to be alone in God's presence. Would not mind being able to have other opportunities like this during the year."

~ Michele Dexter

















THE CHRÍSTMAS PAGAENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2012























HAPPY NEW YEAR! I HOPE YOUR CHRISTMAS WAS FULL OF LOVE AND FAMILY! THERE ARE FUN, EXCITING THINGS I HAVE BEEN PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR! GYM NIGHTS ARE COMING BACK! LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE BULLETIN AND IN CHURCH! ALSO, VALENTINO NIGHT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! CONTINUE TO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IN THIS WORLD! BE HIS LIGHT!