



The Church Herald

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



STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

216 Christian Avenue
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Chuck Van Houten, Pastor

Church Office Tel: (631) 751-0574

Church E-mail:
stonybrookcommunitychurch@gmail.com

Pastor's Study Tel: (631) 751-0659

Church Website:
www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org

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

New Life! ... Now What?

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Now that the very moving and meaningful events of Holy Week and Easter have been experienced, now that the suffering and celebration is behind us, we may find ourselves asking the question: "Now What?" As we look out our windows at the beauty of the earth and all of God's glorious creation coming back to life in this season of spring and Eastertide, we are reminded of new life wherever we look! What a wonderful feeling it is after a long, dark winter to feel the healing balm and warmth of the sun as only God can offer! What a joy it is to roll away the stone and see the magnificence of new life all around us. It truly is a resurrection experience that we often take for granted!

Yet, now we are faced with the challenge of what to do with that new life and the demands that Jesus makes on us: how to live that life with every new day, and God means every day. *(Continued 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.



I remember the moment of Jared's birth so vividly. I also remember that once in a sermon I shared with many of you what the first words were that I spoke to Karen in that moment. With all sincerity, joy, and love in my heart, I looked into her eyes as she held Jared for the first time and said: "Now What?" Suddenly that reality of caring for this beautiful new life was right in front of me, handed to me as a gift, and the awesome joy and responsibility was overwhelming.

In much the same way Jesus offers that same responsibility of caring for the souls of the whole world to all of his disciples. For at the end of his earthly ministry – after all the living, after all the pain, joy, and suffering, after the death and resurrection, can't you just see the disciples looking at one another and thinking, Now What? And yet it is in the reality of that experience that Christ stands before them – and us – and commands us all to care for and offer God's good-news to all the world. He does so with the promise that He himself will be with his disciples for all time, in their words and, most importantly, in their

actions. How will we do that? How will we offer God's love, new life, hope, and presence here in the Stony Brook area in this age? As we come to the end of our visioning and dream catching, what decisions will we make to impact the world around us for God in positive ways? Meditate on the above scripture from the Gospel of Matthew for a moment. Then embrace both the challenge of being a child of God – a disciple of Christ in the world today – and the joy of God's promise that he will be with you – with us – always.

What is God calling you to do in this ongoing season of new life and ministry? Now that the Hosannas have been sung, the tears have been shed, and the Alleluias have been proclaimed, what will you do with those teachings that embrace the fullness of life and yet challenge us to embrace the Easter joy in the midst of the very real events of our humanity every day? For spring has come. The stone has been rolled away from the tomb, and we are commanded – invited – to enter into the joy of living out the great commandment that Christ himself offers to you today in the spirit of the resurrection. How will you respond to him as he speaks to you saying: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

For he will be with you in all that you do by the power of the Holy Spirit – thanks be to God! May our actions and our living relate the good-news of God in all that we do. And may God bless you and keep you always. See you Sunday!

With hope for the future, I remain

In God's love, joy, and presence,

Pastor Chuck





Lectionary

MAY 7, Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Great Fifty Days of Easter: Awakening Series

Awakening to Baptism — As we consider what it means to awaken to baptism, consider that baptism is not a singular event for any of us. Baptism is a way of life.

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

MAY 14, Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Great Fifty Days of Easter: Becoming Series

Becoming One with Christ — Today marks the launch of our second Easter three-week series. “Becoming...” focuses on claiming our spiritual gifts and callings as we seek to live out what it means to become one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Easter season culminates with Pentecost and a service of commissioning people into the ministries to which they have discerned they are called.

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

MAY 21, Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Great Fifty Days of Easter: Becoming Series

Becoming One with Each Other — As we enter our second week in our series, “Becoming,” this week and next week we continue listening in on Jesus’ final conversation with his disciples on the night before his death.

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

MAY 28, Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Great Fifty Days of Easter: Becoming Series

Becoming One in Ministry — It takes all of us, the entire body of Christ becoming one in ministry to see the world and God’s people with the eyes of Jesus. And so, as we complete our time around the table with our Lord and Savior, his prayer for his disciples is his prayer for us too.

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 MYF	1 7:00 (pm) AA	2 7:30 (pm) Finance	3	4 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	5 11:15 AIAnon	6 11:00 - 3:00 Plant Sale Pick-up
7 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 MYF	8 7:00 (pm) AA	9	10	11 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	12 11:15 AIAnon 6:30 - 9:00 MYF Mother's Day Spaghetti Dinner	13
14 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 MYF	15 7:00 (pm) AA	16 7:30 (pm) Church Council	17	18 6:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	19 11:15 AIAnon	20 6:00 p.m. Progressive Dinner
21 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 MYF	22 7:00 (pm) AA	23 7:30 (pm) Trustees	24	25 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	26 11:15 AIAnon	27
28 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 MYF	29 7:00 (pm) AA Memorial Day: Office Closed	30	1	2 6:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	3 11:15 AIAnon	4



SBCC has at least half of the famous team, The Dirty Dozen: we have The Dirty Half Dozen. Thanks to Bill Trawick, Dave Klecher, Bill Hamilton, Whitney Roberts, Jerry Meyer and Dave Seifert (plus Anthony Sellers, not pictured) for beginning the spring cleanup.

Or to switch screen heroes: faster than a gym membership; more powerful than a hand mower; able to leap tall weeds with a single bound! You too can be a part of this crew. Just speak to Whitney to become stronger, healthier, tanner, and highly valued by all for your contribution to keeping the church grounds looking their best.



Recently, the Stony Brook MYF participated in the thirty-hour famine. Our youth group raised \$4,000! We would like to thank everyone who donated or helped us during this event. Thanks to you, 27 children were saved from starvation. The MYF will also be hosting a Mother's Day dinner May 12th from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. Tickets are only a donation of \$5 each, and mothers eat free! The youth hope to see you there, and would like to wish you all a happy Mother's Day! :)





SBCC ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

May 20, 2017 6:00 p.m.

Come join us for our annual Progressive Dinner to be held
on Saturday, May 20th!!

For anyone who is not familiar with the idea of a “Progressive Dinner” here’s a quick explanation of how we do it at SBCC: We all begin together at one house for appetizers. Following that, we move on in small groups to a few separate houses for dinner. At the end of the evening, we all join up again for dessert at another house (now you see why it’s called a progressive dinner).

We have volunteers to host the appetizer course (many thanks to Pat & Jack Martin!), but we will need some hosts for the dinner courses and dessert. Groupings are usually between six and ten people, depending on how many the host(s) can accommodate. Those who aren’t hosts contribute to the evening by bringing appetizers or dessert to those courses. If dinner hosts need a little extra help, we can also ask for some who aren’t hosting to bring a salad, etc.

Please think about joining us this year – especially if you haven’t done it before or are new to our community. This is a wonderful way for us to spend time together and gives us a great opportunity to get to know each other better. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Community Room beginning this Sunday. Unlike most of our events, this one needs to have a deadline to sign up because we have to coordinate all of the assignments and give our hosts time to prepare. So, please sign up no later than May 14th.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to host a dinner course or dessert, please speak to me after church or e-mail me at: elizabeth.lunde@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you there!

APPLE FESTIVAL 2017

This year’s Apple Festival will be held on Saturday, September 30.
The committee has started meeting, and plans are underway.

Last year, we introduced Apple Central and our new entertainment area and reintroduced the cider press demonstrations. This year, we will significantly enhance the indoor food court. We will keep caramel apples, apple crisp, and the bake table as well as the general eating area and add various attractions with the goal to draw all ages to the back building.

In addition, there are new ideas for the children’s area, and we are considering contacting various agencies such as the police department for a safety demonstration and the Guide Dog Foundation for an informational session.

Our plan is to keep all that has worked well in the past and add new and appealing attractions.

Have we grabbed your attention yet? We welcome your ideas and input; there are so many ways you can be involved. Please talk to someone on the committee (Pat, Donna, Mark, Barbara, Kate, Megan, Sharon, Shantel) or join the group and become even more a part of this vital event.

We happily welcome Sharon Klecher and Shantel Sellers to the committee. They’ve come with fresh ideas, energy, and enthusiasm.



PERFORMING ARTS CAMP 2017 will begin on June 26th and run for four weeks through July 21st, Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM, with the grand performance on Saturday, July 22nd and the pool party on Sunday, July 23rd. ALYSSA COIA will be returning as

Performing Arts Director/Choreographer and VALERIE GREHAN will be returning as Musical Director. THE AGE LIMIT is now ages 7 to 18. Some of our kids have been attending camp for eight or nine years, and as they've gotten older our shows have become more complex. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and last year's "Once Upon a Mattress" demonstrated what our students are capable of.

This year's musical will be *Anything Goes* with music and lyrics by the great Cole Porter. The story concerns madcap antics aboard an ocean liner bound from New York to London. Billy Crocker is a stowaway in love with heiress Hope Harcourt, who is engaged to Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Nightclub singer Reno Sweeney and Public Enemy #13 Moonface Martin aid Billy in his quest to win Hope. The musical introduced such songs as "Anything Goes", "You're the Top", and "I Get a Kick Out of You."



If you know any kids who would enjoy a month of singing, dancing, drama, and lots of fun, please encourage them to sign up soon (registration forms are available on the church web site or from the church office). Then put the date of the performance on your calendars so you don't miss this great show.





Sponsor a Choir Robe or Stole!

As many of you may have noticed, the old choir robes have done noble duty for many a year, but now they are beginning to look bedraggled and ready for retirement. Thanks to a generous donation and some funds in the music account, 40% of the cost of new robes and stoles has already been raised. However, we need to raise 60%. We hope to debut the new robes by the end of this church year.

Please help our choir to look as good as they sound by sponsoring a new robe or stole.

Thanks so much,

Joan, Val, and the choir

Name: _____

I wish to sponsor a new robe for \$75: _____

I wish to sponsor a new stole for \$25: _____



UMW PLANT SALE

The UMW would like to thank all those who supported the Plant Sale. We really appreciate your generosity and help in enabling us to continue funding our outreach programs. Plants may be picked up on Saturday, May 6th from 11 to 3 at the Sullivan House, 216 Christian Ave. Please note: Plants will not be available before 11 am.





I grew up on [Mission: Impossible](#), pre-Tom Cruise. It was amazing to watch the TV character Peter Graves tackle the impossible week in and week out. Headquarters gave him tough top secret jobs that were literally impossible with the words, “Your mission, should you choose to accept it ...” He was part of the Impossible Missions Force (IMF). Funny, but I don’t ever remember him saying no.

I know church leaders just like that. One such woman would give Peter Graves a run for his money. She has a towering, impossible and inspiring vision: to eliminate racism in her home state. Impossible, you say? You bet it is. Until you say it out loud, that is. Articulating a vision is the first step to making it a reality.

The truth is, if it seems doable and you already know how to do it, it’s probably not a vision anyway. It’s more like a goal. Goals are good, but they don’t transform the world like a “Vision: Impossible” does.

When Microsoft developed the vision of putting a personal computer on each desk, it was a “Vision: Impossible.” Computers occupied entire rooms, not the tops of desks. The average Jane hadn’t even thought about what she might do with one, let alone if she had the means to afford one.

But that’s the nature of visions: They are impossible at first. In fact, that’s what sets them apart from goals. Goals are doable. You can understand what steps to take to accomplish them. You might even be able to accomplish them with the people, resources and structures you have on hand. But a vision is a whole different order. It expands assumptions about what people think is possible.

Ending malaria, ending hunger, ending homelessness and ending poverty are similar seemingly impossible visions. But once some brave soul had the courage to even imagine it, then give voice to it, the impossible started moving into the realm of possible. Now, interested people have gathered around each of these areas to create structures, assemble resources, establish goals, set benchmarks, gather funding and attract key people to the vision. I truly believe that each of them will be accomplished.



Visions also require boldness. It requires a great deal of chutzpah to speak of the impossible as if it were doable. Kind of like Jesus saying we can enter the kingdom of God. Before Jesus, the kingdom was a far-off sort of experience. But Jesus brought it to the foreground, and made it a here-and-now kind of experience going so far as to say that it is within us. That transformed what we think is possible and gives courage to visionaries and dreamers of every sort.

What if communities of faith took on making the impossible possible instead of settling for improvement and incremental change?

If you decide to accept the challenge to dream a “Vision: Impossible,” here are some things to keep in mind:

Dream big. Jesus’ own dream was that earth would mirror heaven. The bigger you dream, the more you tap into the energy, power, blessing and realm of Jesus. This can be very scary at first. Not only for you, but for your people. Remind people that this is the stuff of faith. If faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen, it means you don’t have all the answers before you start. In fact, you can’t.

Conduct a kingdom Bible study. Read the Gospels looking especially at what Jesus had to say about the kingdom. Note how much of his activity is actually about the kingdom. Don’t stop with the Gospels. Read Acts and the epistles of Paul with this lens as well.

Be willing to fail. When you take on a “Vision: Impossible”, things might fail. On the other hand, they might succeed, or come to fruition in a way you hadn’t expected. The disciples thought Jesus failed. But look at all the good that came out of his life and death.

Communicate, communicate, communicate. Share your vision again and again, to gain adherents. The more you share it, the more people have a chance to get on board, offer suggestions, buy-in, and help implement it. Just about the time you’re sick of saying it, others will feel they’ve heard it for the first time.

REBEKAH SIMON-PETER



Rebekah Simon-Peter is passionate about transforming church leaders and the congregations they serve. She’s the author of [“Green Church”](#) and [“The Jew Named Jesus.”](#)

July 24-28th, 2017

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 24-28th, Monday through Friday, 8:45 am (sharp) to 12:00 noon
Caroline Church of Brookhaven, Dyke Road, Setauket, New York

Vacation Bible School is a cooperative effort involving community churches utilizing the facilities of the Caroline Church of Brookhaven and the Setauket Presbyterian Church

Please enroll your child/children in the grade level they will be entering in the fall:

Preschool..... Age 4	Primary I..... 1st Grade	Middler 3rd Grade	Juniors 5th Grade
Kindergarten Age 5/6	Primary II 2nd Grade	Middler 4th Grade	Juniors 6th Grade

The following fee structure has been set up to cover the cost of materials and snacks:

1. **Standard Registration Fee: \$40.00 per child**, 3 or more children with same last name \$30.00 per child.
2. Children of parents who participate as VBS Partial Week volunteer staff members.....\$30.00 per child
3. Children of parents who participate as VBS Full Week volunteer staff members.....\$20.00 per child.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

No Registrations will be accepted after 12:00 Noon on Friday July 7th, 2017
**** NO EXCEPTIONS ****

**TEACHERS AND TEACHERS' HELPERS IN ARTS AND CRAFTS,
BIBLE STUDY & MUSIC. RECREATION & REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS
AND HELPERS. CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.**

**CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS OF
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Register Early!!

Class Sizes will be limited!!

To register your child, or volunteer to help on the staff, please fill out the attached Registration Form and/or Volunteer Form and return with your check payable to **Caroline Church** to:

Community Vacation Bible School
MAUREEN REYES
1 Dyke Road
Setauket, NY 11733

For more information email Maureen Reyes at reyes4fam@verizon.net
or call 631-255-2929 or call the church office at 631-941-4245

Volunteer Form - Community Vacation Bible School 2017

Name: _____ Entering Grade: (if youth volunteer) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Church Attending: _____

I would like to volunteer as a Vacation Bible School staff member in the following capacity:

Bible Study **Teacher**, Grade Preference: (if any) _____

Bible Study *Assistant*, Grade Preference: (if any) _____

Arts & Crafts _____

Refreshments _____

Recreation _____

Child Caregiver _____

Music _____

Closing Ceremony _____

Other _____ (please specify)

I have children who will need childcare:

Name(s) _____ Age(s) _____

Person to notify in case of an emergency:

Name/Relationship _____

Phone Number: _____

Registration Form: VBS 2017

Child's name: _____ Child's gender: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew name/area (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child:

