



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

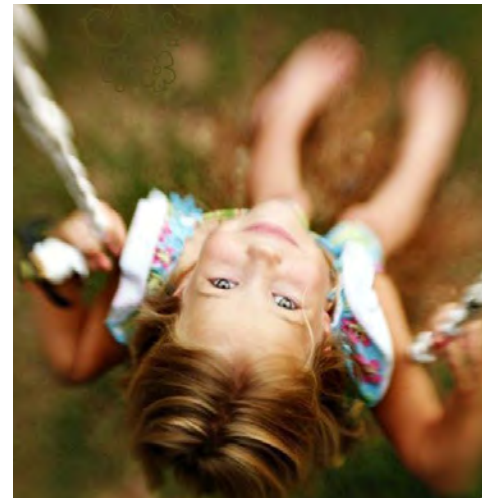
Happy New Year! Let's Get It Started!

Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ~ Luke 18:16

That's Right! Happy New Year!

It's September, and it's time to begin the new school year/church year! That means it's time for all of our new church year programs and events to get started again.

While we are all busy helping to get ready for our annual Apple Festival on September 12th, there are a number of initiatives and programs that I would like to share with you as we begin this new church year together. Many of you know that we have been in the process of trying to determine where might be the best place for us to create dedicated spaces/classrooms for both our Sunday school program and our Youth Group.



While a couple of possibilities have been discussed over the last year or so, none have worked out just yet for a number of reasons. While the Education Building would be great for youth activities in the gym, sharing the NSMS classrooms with our youth or Sunday school would simply not work. Sharing classroom space with NSMS is fraught with logistical issues. The attic rooms of the Education Building, while a great space, would require plenty of renovation and added fire egress for our youth and adults, as well as heating. *Continued on 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.



Over the course of the last year, our Church Council in conversation with our Board of Trustees discussed at length making the Op Shop building -- because of its proximity to the church building -- a possible new Sunday school and Youth Center. This suggestion was unanimously approved by our church council. However, considering the current state of the Op Shop building, this would be a more long term project that our Church Council and Board of Trustees will be discussing in the coming year.

In the meantime, please understand that we can no longer afford to not offer dedicated spaces for our youth and children. When a new family occasionally joins us and notices that SBCC does not have classrooms for their Sunday school children, what impression might that give? Most likely, it gives the impression that children and youth are not a priority at our church. Ask yourself this important question: If I were to attend SBCC for the first time as a young family today, knowing nothing about the church, and noticed that there were no dedicated or purpose-built facilities for children or youth, would I bring my family back again, or would I go to one of the numerous other churches nearby that have dedicated spaces and facilities for their children and youth? The answer, for most folks, would be quite clear.

This is why our Church Council has decided that, for the coming year, we will be transforming the two first floor rooms across from that church office in the Sullivan House into dedicated Sunday school spaces until a more permanent solution is reached. Offering this space to our children will not only show them that they are important to SBCC, but will also offer a space for our youth and Sunday school workers and volunteers to call home, having a place to store their curriculum and other necessary supplies.

While I know there will be differing thoughts on how to resolve this issue in a more permanent way, I invite you to offer your support to our Sunday school and youth programs as we begin this new journey together this fall. I also invite you to be a positive part of the discussion on how we provide a more permanent space by next year for our children and youth. This will be one of the most important decisions we make for SBCC and its future in quite a long time. Please remember, the children of our church and community are not only the future of the church, but most importantly, they are the church today. Let's show our children and youth, as well as the whole community, just how important their faith development is to the people of the Stony Brook Community Church.

And so I ask you to please volunteer to help with our Sunday school and Youth over the course of this coming year. You're never too young or too old to contribute and offer help. Every bit of support you offer will make a huge difference to our children and to the future of SBCC. Let's show our children how much we value them by taking part in the Sunday school and youth ministries this year. Talk to Ron or Kate Hausske about volunteering and getting involved today.

Continued on next page...



Please know that I am not just asking folks in the church to get involved, but that I will also be getting even more involved. Consequently, I will not be leading a Disciple Bible Study class this year, in order that I might focus more on helping to lead us through this time of growth and change in our children and youth programs. Nevertheless, I will still be offering three short-term studies and sermon series over the course of the year. In the fall we will be studying Kent M. Keith's book, *Jesus Did It Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments for Christians*. This will be a five-week study and sermon series beginning the week of Sunday, September 27th, culminating in the week of Sunday, October 25th.

In January and early February, we will all be working together on a church-wide program by Adam Hamilton called, *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*. Additionally, there is also a youth participation booklet to this study. This might help to bring our youth into the church-wide dialogue of this study.

For the season of lent, we will be studying another Adam Hamilton/United Methodist Church of the Resurrection program entitled, *Final Words from The Cross*. This will be both a book study and sermon series.

Again, please give serious and prayerful thought with regard to getting involved this year in our initiatives and studies.

I do look forward to seeing you at the Apple Festival on Saturday, September 12th, and on upcoming Sundays as we get this new-year started. So, let's get it started!

See you in church.

Yours in God's love, joy and hope

Pastor Chuck

Eleventh Annual Vintage European Sports Cars & Motorcycle Display
Stony Brook Community Church - August 8, 2015

The eleventh display event is dedicated to the memory of Jeremy van Bemmelen, who died tragically in an accident on December 3rd, 2014, leaving behind his expectant wife April and their daughter Olivia (now 3). Baby Ayrdrie was born two weeks later. All three family members were present at this year's car show along with Jeremy's mother, father and others.

Please see the attachment, where you can view and download the pictures. Thanks again for helping to make the show another great success. Thanks to Pastor Chuck Van Houten and his congregation at the Stony Brook Community Church for graciously allowing us to use their grounds and facilities in this truly festive community event.

And thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ken and Mary Ellen Doris, for their devoted service in helping to organize the show over the last ten years. Ken and Mary Ellen are planning to move to Florida in the not too distant future. We will miss them sorely. Godspeed.

Malcolm Bowman for the Organizing Committee.



September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	30 7:00 (pm) AA	1 7:30 (pm) Finance Committee	2	3 6:00 AA	4 11:15 AIAnon	5
6 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	7 Labor Day, office closed 7:00 (pm) AA	8	9	10 6:00 AA 7:30 First Choir rehearsal	11 11:15 AIAnon Apple Festival set-up	12 Apple Festival
13 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	14 7:00 (pm) AA	15	16	17 6:00 AA 7:30 Choir rehearsal	18 11:15 AIAnon 5:30 First MYF	19
20 Back to Church Sunday! 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 Choir rehearsal	21 7:00 (pm) AA	22 7:30 (pm) Church Council	23	24 6:00 AA	25 11:15 AIAnon 5:30 MYF	26
27 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 Choir rehearsal	28 7:00 (pm) AA 7:30 Book Club	29 7:30 (pm) Trustees	30	1 6:00 AA	2 11:15 AIAnon 5:30 MYF	3



Lectionary

September 06, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus goes to Lebanon for a vacation and there encounters a local woman whose begging ultimately convinces him to free her daughter from a demon. Returning to Galilee, and re-entering the region of the Decapolis (where he had cast out a legion of demons), Jesus heals a man who could not hear or speak. The more he ordered others not to speak of this, the more they spread it abroad. (Mark 7:24-37)

Mark 7:24-37

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125



September 13, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Peter confesses Jesus is the Christ. Jesus teaches his disciples about the realities of his messiahship — rejection, suffering, death, and then Resurrection. Peter rebukes Jesus privately. Jesus rebukes Peter publicly, calling him Satan. Jesus teaches all who will listen that his followers must deny themselves, take up the crucifix, and follow where he leads. (Mark 8:27-38)

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19 (UMH 750)

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 20, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1 (UMH 738)

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 27, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124 (UMH 846)

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

October 04, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26 or

Psalm 25 (UMH 756)

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10: 2-16





Ron & Kate
here!

SBC
youth

rkhausske@gmail.com

Welcome Back!!!

KIDZONE



**CREATION
CONSTRUCTION
ZONE**

**Children's
Halloween
Party**

COMING SOON!



Fall is upon us! We are excited for the new school year!

MYF meetings are now FRIDAY at 6:00pm



Going Forward

Let's **FLOAT INTO FALL**
with
ROOT BEER FLOATS

We are looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School 1 - 2 times per month with our new curriculum. (plans, materials, set-up, etc.)

PLEASE SEE RON OR KATE

To find out more details and
To express your unwavering interest



Church Council Update

Council met August 25th this month. We were happy to welcome Pastor Chuck back from his vacation! We spent the first part of our meeting revisiting the summer activities and events.

PAC was very successful this year and its performance of Godspell was a big hit with everyone who attended any of the three shows! Congratulations to Sherrill Jones and the staff for all their hard work!

The church picnic was a special time this year, with baptisms and a service part of the evening! Thanks to all who contributed, and especially the Klechers!

If you were not in town on July 12th, you missed a wonderful outdoor church worship service! It was a beautiful morning and all who attended enjoyed the experience!

Many people from church participated in Change the World Sunday on June 28th. We were able to collect many bags of food that were donated to St. James Catholic Church for their soup kitchen. Toiletries and such were gathered for Concern for Independent Living. A group of hard workers spent the morning doing yardwork for folks in the community, and finally letters were written to fellow congregants to reach out and say hi! Council is looking ahead to planning future dates several times during the year. If you are interested in helping with the planning, please speak to Pastor Chuck.

As you know, the month of September is a busy one for our church, starting with our Apple Festival on September 13th. Plans are in the final stages and in case you haven't signed up to be a part of this special day, please see Pat Martin.

Sunday School will begin September 20th along with Back to Church Sunday celebrations. MYF will be meeting regularly on Friday evenings, with September 4th the first date.

Looking ahead, we will offer an historical tour of our church to the public on October 4th. Should you wish to be a part of this event, please speak to Donna Smith.

Pastor Chuck is planning his next study, which will take place this fall. More information will be forthcoming. Remember, all are welcome to attend council meetings. Wouldn't you love to be a part of the planning and decision- making that shape our church? Hope to see you at our next meeting, October 20th!





When in Our Music God is Glorified!

A new year of choir starts with the first rehearsal Thursday, September 10 at 7:30. Future rehearsals are usually the first two Thursdays of the month at 7:30 and the last two Sundays after fellowship hour. Everyone who can match pitches is invited and encouraged to join: you do not need to know how to read music – you just need to like to sing (and even if you now think you don't like to sing, we bet if you come to a few rehearsals you'll find out you do!).

As the choir prepares to step into its familiar and beloved role leading our worship music we'd like to thank all those whose musical gifts enriched our summer worship: Bill Hamilton, Margaret Dickinson, Pastor Chuck, Henry Poor, Richard Olness, Hsin-Chiao, and Phuc Phan.





THE APPLE FESTIVAL IS IN JUST FIVE DAYS !

THE FIRST BIG TASK WAS
COMPLETED TEN DAYS AGO WHEN OUR
INTREPID PIE MAKERS MADE 125 APPLE PIES. THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED AND A
VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO BETSY LUNDE, OUR TRUSTY PIE CEO!



Now...



CALLING ALL FRITTER BATTER MAKERS! To make sure we have this popular treat we need people to mix the batter and just mix the batter! Peeled and chopped apples will be provided. Please sign up at the Apple Festival bulletin board in the Community Room and take a recipe that's tacked on there.

CALLING ALL PACK-RATS!! If you have anything a kid could use to create art please bring them and leave them in the box in the Community Room.



AND CALLING ALL BAKERS!!! Remember to bake your favorite creations for the bake table. Please label them with a list of all ingredients.

CALLING ALL TREASURE OWNERS!!!! Attic Treasures needs your attic treasures. Please price and bring your treasures to the Apple Festival's Attic Treasure tables on September 12. Pricing stickers are available in the Community Room.



AND CALLING EVERYONE ELSE !!!!!!! Please sign up in the Community Room to help out however you wish.

We need you!





Time To Register!

Please call the district office to register.

Order of the Day

9:00 Gathering
 9:30 "Methodism 101"
 10:30 Break
 10:45 "The Social Principles"
 12:30 Lunch
 1:15 "Understanding the 'Other'"
 2:30 Dismissal



Rev. Adrienne Brewington,
District Superintendent



Rev. Dr. R. Clayton Childers

Sponsored by:

The Long Island East District

Phone: (631) 366-2396
 E-mail: liedistrict@nyac-umc.com
 Website: liedistrict.com

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors."

Methodism Matters



Saturday, September 26, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location:

Commack United Methodist Church
 486 Townline Road • Commack, New York

• • •

What do United Methodists believe?
 How are we organized? Why does it matter?
Why attend this session?

Free!!

"Our church's welcoming embrace, although aspirational in many respects, has nevertheless drawn to its communion people of varied religious and theological backgrounds. This event is a unique opportunity to sit together, consider our foundational elements and join hands for the work that is before us."
 ~ Rev. Brewington

Featured Guest Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers

*Director of Annual Conference Relations, General Board of Church & Society
 GBCS Annual Conference Liaison for the Imagine No Malaria Campaign*

The Rev. Dr. R. Clayton Childers is Program Director for Annual Conference Relations at the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS).

Clayton began work at GBCS on Feb. 1, 2001. He came to the board after serving as a local church pastor in South Carolina Annual Conference for 12 years. In his role at the board, Clayton works to interpret and promote GBCS's work in United Methodist annual conferences and local churches throughout the world. He provides support and resources to conferences and local churches as they seek to develop and broaden their ministries of public witness, advocacy and action.



The Malawi Project



The East Quogue UMC is collecting prescription bottles for the Malawi Project. Clinics and hospitals in Malawi (a small, very poor country in Africa) have to dispense prescriptions wrapped in pieces of plain paper. This leads to the medications getting lost or damaged or – even worse – children getting into and eating them. To prevent this, rather than throwing out your empty Rx containers please **black out your name on the label** and bring them to the Community Room collection box. *(Unfortunately we cannot send over the counter bottles, only prescription ones.)* East Quogue UMC will process and send the containers to Malawi. For more details please see the flyer on the Community Room bulletin board



THE GRACE OF STORM CHASING

At the risk of alienating large segments of the Ministry Matters audience, I'm going to continue [to discuss] Hamilton's *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It* with a "Magic: The Gathering reference".... You see, there is this Magic card called Storm Seeker.

Storm Seeker does one point of damage to an enemy player for every card in his or her hand.... To seek the storm, to chase the tornado, you have to be daring, and possibly a little crazy. You hold your life in your hands doing something like that. Wesley was just such a storm chaser. He pursued the God whom Scripture calls a consuming fire. He wanted to glorify God with his whole life, all his thoughts and actions.

As Rev. Hamilton tells us in *Revival* chapter 3, Wesley's zeal accentuated a tension many Christians experience: the tension between living a holy life (and calling others to do the same), on the one hand, and trusting the good news that God saves us by grace alone through faith, on the other.... Rev. Hamilton says that he suspects Wesley's zeal for perfect holiness was a contributing factor to his decision to pursue missionary work in Georgia. See, Wesley had never been on a ship before the day he began the three month voyage to America. And Wesley was a bit terrified of the ocean. Alas, the ship did encounter storms:

For Wesley, the Atlantic storms demonstrated the inadequacy of his cerebral and often works-oriented faith. On January 25, 1736, he recorded in his journal the climax of these storms at sea: the mainsail was in tatters, waves washed over the ship, and the water "poured in between the decks, as if the great deep had already swallowed us up." He observed that the English passengers were screaming in terror, as he was, but a group of German Moravians calmly sang a psalm (63-4).

In the decision to come to Georgia — to give himself to God even in areas of oceanic fear — Wesley decided to chase the storm. And suddenly he was in it. The storm rocked his world. It revealed the weakness of his faith, in contrast to the spiritual calm and assurance of the Moravians' faith. And the storm was only beginning when the ship arrived safely in Georgia. The details are fascinating, their result unambiguous: "He returned to England a complete failure" (67).

Game Over, John Wesley. Well, not quite.

"We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). In the terror of the storm God plants seeds and rearranges Wesley's life, preparing Wesley for the very good works God has prepared for Wesley to walk in.

The point I want to emphasize is that it is not that Georgia is all folly and Aldersgate* is all grace. It is not that Wesley's unbalanced works-righteousness personality is opposed to grace, that there is no grace in Wesley's desire to glorify God completely and please God, and then God finally gives the grace and the Holy Spirit with the assurance at Aldersgate. It is grace, not lack of grace, that makes Job walk the line and ask the questions and get put in his place by God in the whirlwind (Job 38). God wants to change Wesley at Aldersgate, and so God gives Wesley the grace to pursue God crazily in his own unbalanced way (just as each of us has our own individual crazy unbalanced way). For all we know, the Pharisees and Scribes may be living utterly in the throes of grace, such that it is grace upon grace when the Son of God reads them the riot act.

What do you think?

I think the grace of storm chasing prepared Wesley for the grace upon grace of Aldersgate.

CLIFTON STRINGER



Clifton Stringer is a Ph.D. student in Historical Theology at Boston College. He previously studied English and Religious Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, and attended seminary at Duke Divinity School. He and his wife Lindsey have two children. Clifton is ordained in the United Methodist Church, and has served congregations in Austin, TX, and Lakehills, TX.

** In 1738 John Wesley 'experienced confirmation of his salvation by the grace of God.' in a meeting room in Aldersgate Street, London.*