

The Church Herald

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



STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Please send items for the Newsletter to the
Church office at:
stonybrookcommunitychurch@gmail.com
by the 26th of each month.

Home Again!

"Come home, come home, You who are weary come home."

-- Softly and Tenderly

This year, September 15th will be our Welcome Back to Church Sunday. At our recent Church Council meeting I shared that I was thinking of calling that day Home Coming Sunday. And although we settled on Welcome Back to Church Sunday, in my heart I can't help but feel it is also a home coming of sorts.



Yesterday I had a meeting at the Conference Center in White Plains that the Bishop had invited some of us to attend. It was a meeting to discuss the future of the church and the struggles we are facing as the church in the world today.

It was a very honest and open time of sharing and planning. On the way home, thinking about all that had been shared, I found myself sitting in traffic. Nothing new for us Long Islanders. As I was sitting on the Northern State Parkway, I decided to get off at exit 36 in Syosset. That was the exit we always took when I was growing up there. And no matter where we had been, when we arrived at that exit it meant we were home. I found myself driving into the old neighborhood and stopping by the old house.

It had been many years since I had been by my childhood home. Years back, when Jared was little, I remember driving him by the house in Syosset to show him the place where daddy grew up. Once again, yesterday, I found myself at this place filled with so many memories. This was the place where I was born, the place that I called home for more than twenty years. Long after I had moved out it was still home. . Of course, the house looks quite different now. It has been re-sided, given a new porch and even an in-ground pool – something I always wanted. Oh well. As I continued on my way back to Stony Brook I realized that what caused me to drive by the house wasn't the traffic, but a deep inner need for me to come home, to return to simpler days and feel that innocence, that safety of being cared for by my parents and grandparents.

...Continued

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.



This was a place where my sister and I knew we would always be safe because of their love. I imagined what it would be like to simply be with them all one last time, sharing a meal with my family, or celebrating Thanksgiving or Christmas together again. Life seemed so simple then, so safe.

Of course, life was not always easy when I was growing up, nor was it easy for my family. There were many struggles, financial worries, illnesses, hospitalizations, and family losses. Yet, amid the joys and the difficulties of life, at any stage, coming home to where we are — and to God — is a very important and life-affirming practice we all need to take part in. As Henri Nouwen rights in his book, *The Inner Voice of Love*:

There are two realities to which you must cling. First, God has promised that you will receive the love you have been searching for. And second, God is faithful to that promise. So stop wandering around. Instead, come home and trust that God will bring you what you need. Your whole life you have been running about, seeking the love you desire. Now it is time to end that search. Trust that God will give you that all-filling love and will give it in a human way. Before you die, God will offer you the deepest satisfaction you can desire. Just stop running and start trusting and receiving. Home is where you are truly safe. It is where you can receive what you desire... When you come home and stay home, you will find that love that will bring rest to your heart.

We may not be able to go back to our childhood home filled with the people we loved and lived with back then. Some of us may not have grown up in a home that we would want to return to. Nevertheless, we can come home to God and the faith home that God has given us to live in, sharing our love and joy as well as the struggles of everyday life. I pray you will come home to God and God's family this month. Come home to the blessings of the people and the relationships that God has placed in your life through Christ's holy church. What a blessing that family is. I am so thankful for this place called The Stony Brook Community Church, and I hope you are too. May God bless you and keep you. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all on Welcome Back to Church Sunday. Or should I say Welcome Home Sunday.

In God's love, joy, and welcome,

Pastor Chuck





September Lectionary

September 1: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalms 81:1-16

Hebrews 13:1-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)

Philemon 1:1-21

Luke 14:25-33

September 15: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalms 14 (UMH 746)

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 22: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalms 79:1-9 or Psalm 4 (UMH 741)

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 29: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16 (UMH 810)

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

No Pumpkin Sale this year




Unfortunately, we need to cancel this year's pumpkin sale. The organization that provides the pumpkins cannot deliver until October 13 which is too late in the season for the effort involved and the minimal profit realized for the church. For those who worked on the pumpkin sale last year, you will recall that this is the same day we took delivery last year which we discovered was too late in the season

The good news is that we are not giving up on this fundraiser! We will be back in 2020 when I am hopeful we will be able to schedule an earlier delivery date!



September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	2 7:00 (pm) AA <i>Labor Day: Office Closed</i>	3	4	5 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	6 11:15 AIAnon	7
8 10:00 Worship First Sunday School! 11:00 Coffee Hour	9 7:00 (pm) AA	10 7:30 Finance	11	12 7:00 AA 7:40 First Choir Rehearsal!	13 11:15 AIAnon MYF Kick-off at the parsonage, 7:00-9:00	14
15 “Welcome Back to Church Sunday” 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Pie Sunday	16 7:00 (pm) AA	17 7:30 Church Council	18 1:00 and 7:30: The Call classes	19 7:00 AA 7:40 Choir Rehearsal	20 11:15 AIAnon Apple Festival Set-up	21 Apple Festival 
22 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	23 7:00 (pm) AA	24 7:30 Trustees	25 1:00 and 7:30: The Call classes	26 7:00 AA 7:40 Choir Rehearsal	27 11:15 AIAnon	28
29 11:00 Coffee Hour	30 7:00 (pm) AA	1	2 1:00 and 7:30: The Call classes	3 7:00 AA 7:40 Choir Rehearsal	4 11:15 AIAnon	5

Apple Festival 2019

Saturday, September 21

This year's Apple Festival is only a few short weeks away!

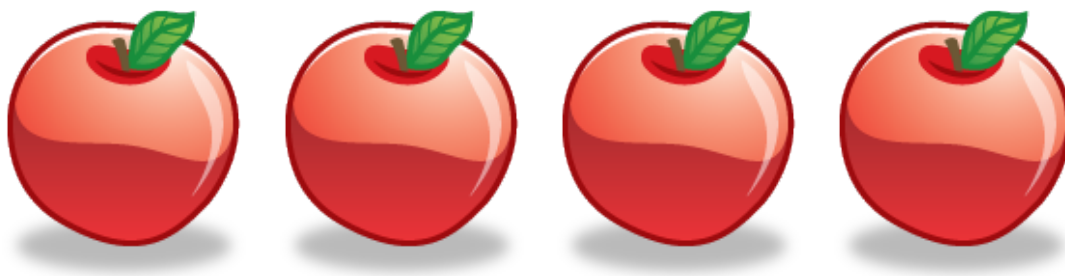


We need you...

in so many ways:

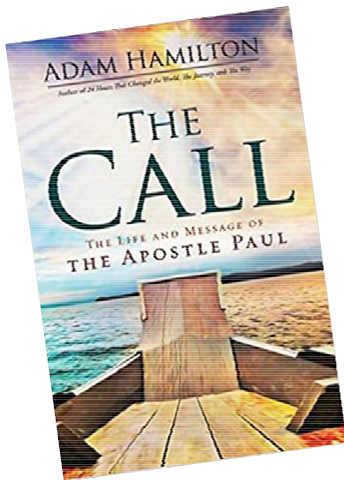
- ...to be a part of our Pie Making Extravaganza on September 15
- ...to sign up for your favorite spot on the sign-up sheets in the Community Room
- ...to volunteer to help set up and/or clean up (set up the evening before)
- ...to choose item(s) from the Giving Tree to donate
- ...to bake for the Bake Table
- ...to set aside gently used items for Attic Treasures (bring the morning of the fair)
- ...to save paper and cardboard items (paper towel rolls, etc.) for the kids' free Construction Zone
- ...to take out an ad in the pamphlet or ask a local business to do so
- ...to tell *everyone* you know about the day and invite them to come

We need you...to be a part of the success of this very special day!





Coming up in two weeks: the first of two great new bible study classes!



September 18 – October 23: A six-week study on Adam Hamilton's *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul.*

Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. Join us to experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary.

"Pastor and teacher Adam Hamilton succeeds brilliantly in introducing the life and ministry of Paul. Adam's interweaving of personal testimony and ministry insights provide important lessons for Christian disciples today—something Paul himself would have readily welcomed."

Dr. Mark Wilson, Asia Minor Research Center, Antalya, Turkey

"Adam Hamilton demonstrates theologically and spiritually how indispensable the apostle Paul is to both the early Christian and 21st century church. This book is a wonderful gift for the church, and I recommend it with utmost Christian enthusiasm."

Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Associate Professor of New Testament and Biblical Interpretation,
Saint Paul School of Theology

Sign up in the Community Room!



Special Concert by Taylor Ackley and the Deep Roots Ensemble with special guest Buddy Merriam

Please join us **Sunday October 20th - 4:00PM** at the Stony Brook Community Church for a one-time special performance by Taylor Ackley and the Deep Roots Ensemble joined by special guest Buddy Merriam. This recital will feature standards from the bluegrass, country, and gospel repertoires as well as original compositions by Ackley and Merriam including new music from their upcoming recording project. Merriam has been the Artist in Residence with the Deep Roots Ensemble for their 2019 concert season. His three guest appearances with the ensemble at the Staller Center for the Performing Arts, the Three Village Chamber Players Folk Festival and The Jazz Loft were all huge hits so this last collaborative performance is sure to be a special musical occasion.



The Deep Roots Ensemble is a chamber ensemble built from a mix of folk and classical instruments ranging from banjo and dobro to French horn and bassoon. They specialize in studying and performing Traditional American Music. Formed in 2015 by Taylor Ackley and Alison Rowe with the goal of bringing this rich tradition of music making into concert halls and academic settings the Deep Roots Ensemble has performed extensively in the New York area, the Midwest and the Pacific Northwest and has given numerous lecture recitals, workshops and masterclasses. The ensemble's debut album *Songs from the Bitterroot* was released by 4Tay Records in 2018.

Artist in Residence

Buddy Merriam is widely regarded as one of the top traditional bluegrass musicians around, being described as the "best Monroe-style mandolin player in the world" by Tony Williams. With decades as New York state's premier bluegrass bandleader, Merriam has performed and headlined concerts and festivals throughout the United States as well as the British Isles including appearances at the Grand Ole Opry and the Bluegrass Museum and Hall of Fame. His five albums recorded over the last twenty-five years have received positive reviews from a number of publications including *Bluegrass Today*, *Bluegrass Unlimited* and *Mandolin Magazine*. A close disciple and friend of the great Bill Monroe, Merriam has rare connection to the source of this great musical tradition. It is little wonder he has come to be known as Long Island's Father of Bluegrass.



MAYBE CHURCH BUILDINGS AREN'T AS BIG A DEAL AS WE THOUGHT



Those of us who have attended church seemingly forever sometimes feel that the church building is the best tool for evangelism. When we're confronted with (or we finally recognize/accept) declining worship attendance and overall involvement at our lovely church, panic sets in. We need to do *something*.

And churches usually seem to move toward the path of least resistance. We decide what we *think* we should do and pour more energy and resources into building maintenance and/or upgrades.

The theory is that an update to the building will bring curious onlookers to the campus.

The building often becomes the focus of evangelism because it's the easiest thing to change. And almost everyone usually agrees that a church building could benefit from a facelift or two.

It perpetuates the idea of changing without really changing.

It's the easiest path because all it really requires is throwing money at the problem. I'm not suggesting that it's easy funding a building project but diagnosing issues with the building is easier than pointing out problems with the church's ministries that may have led to the decline in attendance.

Someone once told me, "If you have a problem you can solve by throwing money at it, you don't have a very interesting problem."

Just upgrading your campus won't bring people to church when they have little to no interest in coming to church in the first place.

My wife loves the craft store Michaels. She can spend hours, and I mean hours, at Michaels.

I absolutely despise that store. Even more because I get no cell reception/data there AND they have free wi-fi but it never works.

It motivates me to be a good Christian because I feel that's what my hell would be like: an eternity in Michaels with no wi-fi. It already feels like eternity when I'm there with my wife.

When we first moved here, I drove by that Michaels dozens of times and never noticed it because I have no interest in that store. I can tell you, however, where the Apple Store, Best Buy and *every* Starbucks in Santa Barbara are.



Michaels could go through a facelift. They could change their storefront. They could change their store sign. They could paint their store a different color. They could guarantee that their wi-fi works or they could make everything in the store free. They could even change their name to “Mike’s” and have their slogan mimic the great Gatorade ad: *I wanna be like Mike*. I still wouldn’t go to “Mike’s” because I’m not into crafting or crafty things.

The only reason I would find myself in Michaels is if my wife ~~threatened~~ gently invited me to go with her.

I’m not suggesting that non-churchgoing folks have quite the adverse reaction to church that I do to Michaels. What I’m trying to say is that, perhaps, the only people who will notice the changes to your building and campus are your church members. People who have little to no interest in going to church to begin with probably wouldn’t notice if your building disappeared altogether.

But you know what your non-churchgoing friends might have an interest in? You. Think of all the places you’ve gone because you were invited.

The most effective way to get folks to your church is for you to invite them to come with you. A church planter told me that “80% of newcomers come on the elbow of someone else” meaning they were invited. But that takes effort and risk. You may be turned down. You may be scoffed at. You may have to do some work.

Having a great building is important for increasing the quality of overall church life. But putting ourselves out there and inviting folks is what ensures that our buildings will continue to be used as instruments of God’s saving work for years to come.

JOSEPH YOO



Joseph Yoo lives in beautiful Santa Barbara, CA where he gets to truly enjoy God’s creation through great weather and beautiful beaches. He serves St. Mark United Methodist Church and blogs at www.josephyoo.com. Joseph also hosts a podcast, Into the Wilderness.