



The Church Herald

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



STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

216 Christian Avenue
Stony Brook, NY 11790

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Braddon

E-mail: elizabeth.braddon@gmail.com

Church Office Tel: (631) 751-0574
Church E-mail: umcsb@optonline.net
Pastor's Study Tel: (631) 751-0659
Church Website:
www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org

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Newsletter

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

FROM THE PASTOR: Season of Creation

"Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars" (Barbara Brown Taylor, "An Altar in the World")

There has been a movement to have an intentional Season of Creation" in which our worship service spends several weeks concentrating on God, the Creator. The lectionary calendar (schedule of scripture readings) follows a three year pattern that centers on the Gospel and then fits in OT readings, Psalms, and Epistles to round out the focus. So, the lectionary focus is pretty much centered on the Life of Jesus – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter – followed by Pentecost with an emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Currently, there is no liturgical season when we celebrate God, the Creator. That doesn't mean that we never pay attention to that part of God's nature, but without a season it becomes background. And then, it follows, I think that we see "the natural world" as the background-the playground- for the "real" important work – human relationships. In a recent sermon, I said that it appears to me that the "non-human elements of creation become relegated to the scenery department of the human stage – a backdrop for human activity.

The "Season of Creation" is reclaiming a center stage for all of God's creation. What the movement and I hope to do is to reconnect us with entirety of God's creation as foundational to worship and to the work of the Church. Traditionally we have had a two dimensional focus – our relationship to God through Christ and our human relationships with one another. The purpose of the church is make disciples of Jesus Christ and intimately tied to that purpose through worshiping God and serving humanity. What this emphasis on Creation does is to recognize the Biblical roots that celebrate all of creation from the very beginning of Genesis and leads us to a greater sensitivity that is necessary for critical work to save this fragile planet on which we live.

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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.



FROM THE PASTOR: Season of Creation *(Continued from Page 1)*



It is my hope that by using these carved out weeks, you will be challenged with me to reorient your relationship with creation and with the Creator. Together we can make new connections between how we believe and how we live in relation to all of creation, not just humanity. By concentrating our worship on God's creation, I hope we can seek ways to heal rather than exploit creation, to care for our planet home rather than destroy it.

This is not just a series of sermons about how to change our lifestyles and take care of the earth – its not just about climate change or biodiversity or pollution – it's about resetting our mindset to both celebrate and honestly reassess the reality that we are inextricably bound together with all creation.

Our Christian tradition has not always been good about how we have seen Creation. Some have seen it only as “temporary home” – it doesn't really count in the big picture of eternity. Some have seen those first verses of Genesis that talk about dominion as permissive use of all the resources we can get our hands on or taming the “lesser creatures”. As I explore, and read and speak with other Christians, there is an urgent call to re-orientation – to change from working over and against creatures and natural forces to being in partnership with our natural world. Please join us in worship.

Shalom, *Elizabeth*

Suggested Reading on the Subject...

“A View from Lazy Point” by Carl Safina (or any of Carl's books)

“A Timbered Choir” – The Sabbath Poems (1979-1997) of Wendell Berry



September/Lectionary

September 16
Psalm 19
Proverbs 1:20-33
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 23
Psalm 1
Proverbs 31:10-31
James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 30
Psalm 124
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

October 7
Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

October 14
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

October 21
Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

October 28
Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52



Church School Activities

Ready, Set, Leap into your faith this fall with Sunday school! Be ready to find out who God really is in your life through the Bible, fellowship and fun! This fall we have chosen a whole new curriculum that will give kids a fun look into the lives of the people in the Bible, get them to think about their relationship with God, but most importantly live the word as it was taught. The first session includes knowing God is there during trials and tribulations. They learn this through Moses. How you may ask? Next time you see a kid, ask them! This fall we are very fortunate to have a wonderful group of people who have volunteered their time, hearts and mind to teaching kids about God. Those people are Wally Robinson, Laura Lestrade, Jillian Cafarella, Sarah Klecher, Janie Cuff and myself. I am very excited, and everyone should be too that they are interested in teaching the future of our church. So get ready to proclaim, serve, and love with your kids!



Sunday School



D	E	D	M	M	L	G	U	B	L	M	B	U	X	N
X	R	H	J	E	I	I	J	G	Y	A	Z	Q	I	T
O	S	W	A	A	J	A	B	I	F	K	N	L	M	Z
W	M	R	H	H	O	P	E	G	R	H	P	A	X	W
M	N	V	H	R	A	R	U	O	X	L	R	B	R	N
S	K	G	L	E	B	S	D	D	G	T	V	J	B	B
C	U	E	L	O	A	E	C	S	J	S	T	V	W	V
X	T	S	K	P	V	K	B	H	P	V	V	Z	O	U
N	I	L	E	B	C	E	J	H	T	I	A	F	R	X
B	B	X	P	J	K	L	S	W	B	B	H	D	G	C
Z	U	Y	W	R	G	I	L	J	F	I	N	Z	M	W
V	R	Z	U	A	A	H	T	C	L	B	F	L	Q	A
D	H	R	Q	K	C	Y	K	C	E	L	S	G	W	H
M	X	I	W	D	Z	G	E	W	W	E	R	O	A	R
X	C	V	X	L	C	E	B	R	O	J	V	X	R	E



BIBLE
GROW
LEAP
PRAYER

FAITH
HOPE
LEARN

GOD
JESUS
LOVE





Church School Activities *(Continued)*

This past May I took a very rich course about the Methodist Faith. John Wesley, founder of Methodism was a very passionate, hard-working, God-fearing individual who was determined to spread God's love in a way he saw God. Through discipline and patience he grew a Church that was strong and built on a foundation that will last a lifetime. I myself learned that with discipline in prayer and patience, I can change the world. I recommend it to everyone because you will come out of the course with more of an appreciation for your faith and realize that with God all things are possible. Copies of this course are available in the Sullivan House. Please see Pastor Liz if you are interested.



Lay Leaders Enrich Sunday Worship

Every Sunday our professional staff provides inspiring and stimulating religious and musical leadership, but the staff is not the church: the staff neither can nor should supply all the friendly hospitality that greets guests and members alike. Church members have the privilege and the responsibility of being the welcoming hands and faces that enrich Sunday mornings at Christ's church.

Each Sunday offers four opportunities to extend a welcome to Stony Brook Community Church:

1. Ushers work in teams, each team assigned to work for one month three times a year, opening the sanctuary for worship, collecting the offering, offering assistance with the elevator as needed, and generally making the service run smoothly. One team has been short-handed for over a year, and substitutes would be very welcome. For more information please call Bob Chase (941-4258).
2. Greeters do just that – arrive in time to be in place by 9:45 to greet congregants as they arrive. Individuals, friends, families – anyone can sign up for any individual Sunday on the Community Room bulletin board. For more information please call Sharon Klecher (751-2901).
3. Flower donors beautify the sanctuary while honoring or memorializing a person or cause, and then beautify their homes by taking the flowers with them after the service. The cost is \$25.00 and the large sign-up sheet is in the Community Room. For more information please call Elsie Cadicamo (751-1622).
4. Fellowship hour hosts provide light food (fruit, cookies, whatever) and prepare the coffee for the time of fellowship immediately following each service. Easy instructions are available, posted in the kitchen; the sign-up sheet is again in the Community Room. For more information please call Maureen Tangen (246-5512).

The warmth and friendliness that are such an important part of Stony Brook Community Church are greatly enhanced by these volunteer positions. Please consider how you can best support your church through participation in these services.



Apple Festival 2012! Coming up October 6th

The 60-somethingth ? 70- somethingth ? Apple Festival is fast approaching. We can identify fall Harvest Festivals at SBCC back at least into the 1950s, complete with lobster dinners, SBCC workers in Colonial era costumes, home-pressed cider, etc, etc. Some things change (kids' bouncers weren't around way back then), some things stay the same (apples!), and all things remain fun for everyone not to mention a valuable source of support for many church programs..

Under the leadership of Mark Marino and Susan Murphy, all the many parts of the Festival are beginning to come together. The outside sources of revenue are progressing: advertisements are being sold; and vendors are signing up. Donna Smith's Giving Apple Tree went up and within 24 hours all but two of the donation apples had been plucked by members volunteering to supply the ingredients needed to back gazillions of pies.

Many hands making light work followed by a fun party is a Colonial tradition going back to the old corn husking parties (remember the scenes in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* or *The Little House* series?). Please sign up in the Community Room to help prepare for the Festival; then be sure to come on October 6th to have a wonderful time.



Apple Festival - Past Images





The Annual All-Church Intergenerational Retreat, Coming October 19-21!

Last fall twenty-two SBCC members of all ages gathered at lovely Camp Quinipet for our annual All-Church Intergenerational Retreat. The weather was lovely if perhaps just a tad chilly; the fellowship warm and stimulating; and the food ... well, to quote one participant, "Mrs. Marino's chili was awesome!" To quote a couple of other participants, "The walk through Mashomack Preserve was relaxing. Loved all the white birches amongst the changing leaf colors," and "Those of us who were at Camp Quinipet want to report that we had a great retreat weekend - perfect weather - a wonderful walk through Mashomack Nature Preserve, beautiful sunset, great conversations over an abundance of food. We concluded with a worship service in the Gazebo on Sunday morning."

This year our annual retreat will take place October 19-21. The cost for 2 nights lodging and 5 meals remains the same as last year:

\$75 adults

\$25 5 -18 years old

Free under 5 years old

Registration deposit: \$100 per family \$25 per individual

All ages are welcome and encouraged to come. Pick up a registration form from the table in the narthex.



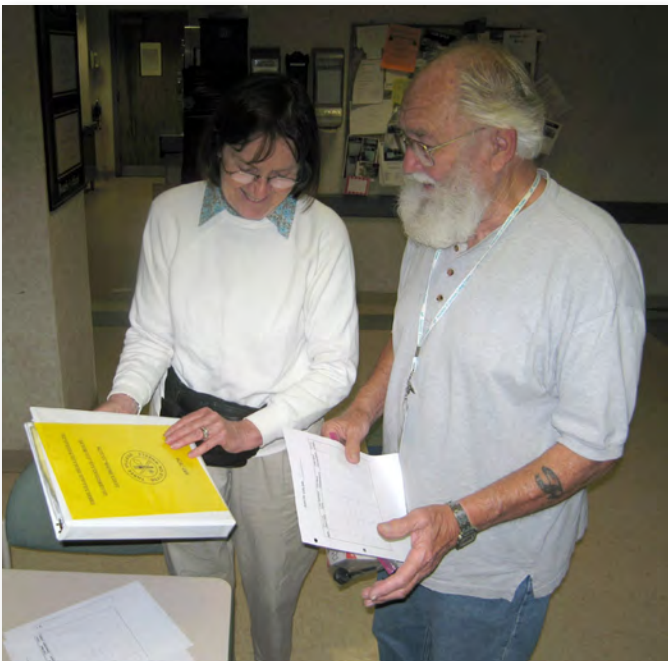


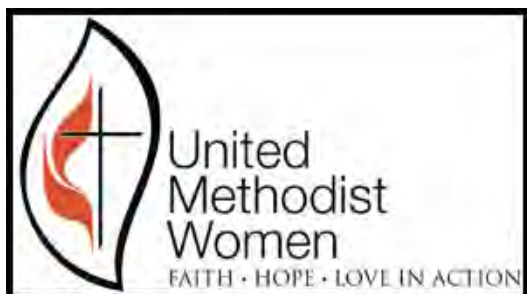
Meals on Wheels

Three Village Meals on Wheels, one of several community services Stony Brook Community Church has helped to found and nurture, is located on the second level of the Sullivan House. The idea of a meal program for the Three Village area originated in 1983 when two women, Mary Ada Niatas and Anna Mae Jenkins, prepared and delivered meals to the physically incapacitated and elderly through their church parish at St. James Roman Catholic Church. After increasing demand lead them to investigate local government programs, they contacted Adelaide Silkworth, then director for the Suffolk County Office of the Aging. Adelaide helped them develop a plan and gather allies. Many community members and organizations such as St. Charles and Mather Hospitals attended the initial meeting at Stony Brook Community Church in May of 1983. It was truly a community affair with Response offering their hot-line number until a dedicated Meals on Wheels number could be set up, Stony Brook Rotary presenting a check for startup funds, and Stony Brook Community Church offering a room for an office.

Three Village Meals on Wheels, Inc. is now in its 28th year of service to those in our community who might otherwise go hungry. Many compassionate and giving people have dedicated countless hours to the development and running of Three Village Meals on Wheels, most especially the volunteer drivers who are the backbone of our daily operation. Our drivers—working in pairs—not only provide the essential delivery of 50 to 70 meals each day but also keep a friendly eye on those who might not be able to summon help for themselves.

We are proud to be part of the caring organizations giving a hand to others in the community. We are always in need of new regular (one x-hour shift a week) and substitute drivers. If such a ministry might be of interest to you we invite you to contact Meals on Wheels at 689-7070.





All are invited to attend our first meeting of the Fall: Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Please come and help us plan for the New Year. We had a successful year last year: Soup Dinner, Wreath Decorating, Wreath sale, Cover Dish dinner, Valentines outreach, Zumba, Plant Sale and our end of the year dinner. UMW enjoyed another year of fellowship, spiritual reflection and working towards financial commitments to outreach. Thanks to the group's efforts we were able to contribute to a scholarship for a youngster to attend the performing arts camp and thanks to Pledge to missions we supported global and community programs.

UMW Zumba



Pledge to Missions: Please consider a contribution to the UMW's pledge to mission. This pledge enables the UMW to support global and local community programs. Fliers are available in the back of the sanctuary.



Sullivan House Update

After a month of impossible static on the church's office phone line and years of birds (not to mention the weather) getting into the Sullivan House attic through and around the failing roof, both issue have been or are about to be resolved.

At the end of July the office phone suddenly developed static so severe that it was often impossible to understand what was being said. All throughout August repeated efforts were made to repair the aging copper land lines, but although the static sometimes improved slightly the office phone remained basically unusable. As a result just prior to Labor Day the Sullivan House phones and internet switched from copper land lines to optical cable and so far seem to be fine.

The roof on Sullivan House has been re-shingled a couple times, but the old cedar shingles were still up there and a replacement was badly needed. A contract was signed at the start of the summer with the expectation that the job would be completed before Labor Day, but work did not actually begin until September 1st. The work therefore became more complicated as safety issues limited what could be done when the Montessori children were going to and from school. As the Herald goes to press the job is not quite finished, but we hope that by the time you read this the roof will be done, the large dumpster will be out of the parking lot, and all will be cleaned up.

