

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

January 2013

As we begin a new year, we Christians celebrate Epiphany. Its origins are obscure, but the Christian feast of Epiphany may have begun in Egypt as early as the last second century. In general, in the East, January 6 was the festival commemorating Jesus' birth and baptism.

On the other hand, the Christians in the West celebrated the Cana miracle when Jesus changed water into wine and the visit of the Magi, distinct from the nativity itself, as a theme of the Epiphany only where and when the festival of the nativity is celebrated on the alternative date, December 25. To avoid a double celebration of Jesus' birthday, the early Christians in Rome and elsewhere began to celebrate Epiphany as the festival of the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ to the Magi, in the baptism of Jesus, and in the first miracle of Jesus at Cana.

Soon after Jesus was born, the wise men who studied the stars came from the East to Bethlehem. When they saw that the star had stopped, they entered the house, saw the baby Jesus, and knelt down and paid homage to him. Then, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And then, they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to King Herod.

Traditionally, we emphasize three important lessons. First, the wise men did not simply admire or study the star but followed it. Second, when they found and worshiped Jesus, they presented precious gifts to him. Third, they followed God's direction and did not go back to King Herod.

If I add one more important point, I would say, "They unexpectedly received the precious reward from God." They not only had a chance to meet the Messiah, but also encountered God who showed them in the dream which way they should take to return to their country. They experienced the Father God, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who guided them during the long journey. They were blessed by the triune God, which was the unexpected reward from God.

As we begin the year of 2013, we want to give our precious gifts to the Lord. What do we want to give the Lord? Let us give the Lord our most precious gifts. That is, our hearts. When we give the Lord our hearts, God will give us the unexpected reward. The reward from God is not a material thing but a spiritual joy which cannot be exchanged with anything in the world.

On the Epiphany of the Lord, God is incarnated in our hearts. God gives us spiritual joy and precious faith as rewards. Like the wise men, we will be blessed and guided by God through the whole year of 2013. Happy New Year!

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas ladies gathered on Monday, December 3, for a Christmas luncheon. Ten women plus Pastor Lee had a good time at the Forum diner.

There will be no meetings in January and February. In March we will be covering coffee cans for the November Craft Fair. We need clean metal coffee cans.

All women are welcome. Christine Hoff

THANK YOU

THANK YOU BILL CARR

A special thank you to Bill Carr for making a new wooden table that fits on the altar for the nativity. This table is larger than the table we used previously so all the figures now fit comfortably. Thank you Bill !

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED

On Friday, November 30th we greened the sanctuary. I am sure everyone enjoyed the beautiful Christmas decorations. A very special thank you to the following people for helping that evening: Dot Allen, Frederick Bamfo, Eric Fager, Dorene, Hannah, and Mackenzie Gonzalez, Greg Goodrich, Steve Hammerle, Emelia Korankey, Pastor Lee, Vida, Kwaku, Junior, & Yaa Owusu, Deirdrea, Mickey & Megan Renwick, Tom Scherer, Regina & Eric Schneider, Flaye Stahl, Donald & Diane Timmone, Palmer, Christopher & David Tucciarone, Lucy & Sam Watung, and Barbara Wenham. May God Bless you for giving of your time. Thank you, Lois Fallon Worship Chairperson

ANOTHER ROUND OF THANKS

Thank you to all who participated in the beautiful Advent/Christmas Concert on December 2nd. The concert directed by our Music Director, Daniel Cafiero was magnificent. It featured our Chamber Choir, Penataquit Handbell Choir, and Youth Choir and two guest artists: Malinda Haslett and Kyle Pfortmiller. Thank you Danny for all the time and effort you put into making this concert so special.
Lois Fallon, Worship Chairperson

DEGREENING THE SANCTUARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th DEGREENING THE SANCTUARY

We will degreen the Sanctuary after church on Sunday, January 6th. It would be great if everyone could stay for 20 minutes to help take the Christmas decorations down. If everyone took just a few things down it would go quickly! SAVE THE DATE ---- JANUARY 6th after worship service --- DEGREENING THE SANCTUARY .

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

Notes from the Music Director



Advent and Christmas Concert Thank You!

I just want to express a very heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in our Advent and Christmas Music Concert on December 2nd. It was an incredible afternoon with beautiful music, and I am grateful for all the hard work that went into putting this concert together. A **BIG** thank you to our Chamber Choir, Handbell Choir, and Youth Choir. They have been rehearsing since September for this concert, and their hard work and dedication certainly showed. Special thanks to Donna Lechner for all her help with tickets, and assorted items; Hyeonjin Kim for all her help with Powepoint and making rehearsal CD's. Thank you to everyone who helped baked and provide refreshments for our intermission. And thank you to Christine Hoff, Greg Goodrich and Pastor Lee for their beautiful readings.

Thank you to all who attended our concert, and purchased tickets. With your help we raised \$1,008.00 from our ticket sales (after expenses were deducted). We also received a generous donation from a ticket holder, who appreciated our concert, for \$500.00. Making our total \$1,508.00. These monies will be put towards new music and new choir robes, which we are in desperate need of. Thank you again to all. May you all have a very blessed and prosperous New Year!

Special Thanks

I would like to thank Bill Carr for his craftsmanship in building a new table for the crèche that adorns our church altar. Last year we asked Bill if he could build a specialized table that would hold our nativity, and would fit on the steps of the altar. After some measuring and hard work, Bill built the perfect table. Thank YOU Bill!

Chamber Choir Rehearses

No Chamber Choir rehearsals during the month of January.

Youth Choir Rehearsals

Sunday January 20th- 11:15 am. – 12:15 pm. in the Sanctuary

Penataquit Handbell Choir Rehearsals

Sunday January 27th- 11:15 am. – 12:15 pm. in the West Room

PASSING THE GAVEL

After six years as Chair of the Church Council, I am moving on to other responsibilities within the Church. I recently passed the American Tourister attache case entrusted to me by previous Chair Alice Cavalla to incoming Chair Lois Fallon, along with a few enclosed items old and new that I feel may prove useful from time to time:

- a) The official Church Council gavel. Alice told me to always hit a block of wood, not the table. This was a very important piece of advice because I wasn't initially thinking of using it to hit either of those things at all.
- b) A copy of the United Methodist Book of Discipline (never opened).
- c) Pepcid Complete, chewable without water, for both short and long term acid relief.
- d) Extra Strength Aleve, effective for both headaches and pains in the neck.
- e) And when all else fails, earplugs and a copy of the Twenty-third Psalm.

In case you are not sure, I am joking. In fact it has been my great honor and privilege to serve as Chair over the past six years. I hope I have been a help to our Church in that time and ask your forgiveness for anywhere I may have fallen short. I would like to thank God for his blessings and everyone at our Church who has given me their advice, and support, and even the respectful disagreement that has helped to keep me honest and focused. I wish Lois the best and am fully confident she will do an outstanding job serving our Church in her new role.

Tom Wilson

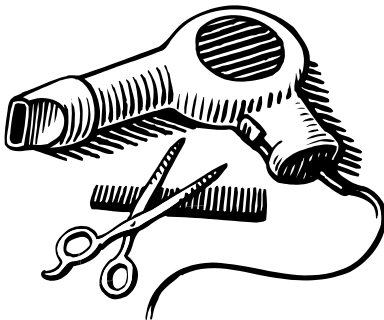
GRANT FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE APPROVED – AND INCREASED!

I want to pass along some astounding news. A few months ago our Church applied for a Mission grant from the Long Island East District of the NY Annual Conference to help support our Early Childhood program. We applied for \$4,000 which is the maximum amount normally considered, but the Parish Development Committee was so impressed with our new ministry that they not only approved the grant application, **they increased the award amount to \$19,000.** This is a grant not a loan with no repayment required. The funds will be disbursed to our Church in four installments at the end of March, June, September, and December 2013.

It has been a challenging year for our Church but I think this is yet another sign that we are on a good path serving God, our neighbors, and each other. Thanks be to God for this blessing and thanks to all who have served this new ministry and our Church with their time and talents and gifts and prayers.

Tom Wilson

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

January 2	Ellen Fager, Evan Nock
January 3	Rashida Charles
January 5	Ally Sullivan
January 4	Shirley Giesler
January 6	Fran Vinas
January 11	Doreen B. Enin
January 12	Don Navratil
January 15	Jacob Sawyer
January 18	Regina Schneider
January 19	Elijah Smith, Anna S. Hoffman
January 20	Nancy Erale
January 21	Kwaku G. Owusu
January 23	David Allen, Michael Falcon, Abigail Seyda
January 24	Adwoa Enin, Michael Renwick, Jr.
January 25	Heather Molaro
January 27	Robert Booy II, Steven Hemmerle, Eric Schneider
January 28	Dee Navratil, Lynda Ruter, Ginger Sullivan
January 29	Jacob Fahey
January 30	Mary Hemmerle

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 3	Samuel and Vida Owusu
Jan. 19	Ebenezer and Doreen Enin
Jan. 21	Norman and Flaye Stahl

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen

Thursday - 4:30 p.m.

Thrift Shop Wednesday 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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The SPIRE January 2013