



**Bay Shore United Methodist Church**

# THE SPIRE

**The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee**

**February 2014**

We Protestants regard only the baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Sacraments while Catholics have the seven Sacraments. Last month, we thought of the meanings of the baptism through The Spire. Now, I would like to comment on the Lord's Supper, focusing on the thoughts of John and Charles Wesley, the chief founders of Methodism.

Most Methodists today know very well that John Wesley gave many sermons and Charles Wesley composed many hymns, but many of them do not realize how much the Wesleys emphasized the importance of the Lord's Supper. In other words, the Wesleys' insistence on Holy Communion has too often been ignored by succeeding generations of Wesleyans.

While living in a period of the liturgical transition, John and Charles Wesley showed their enthusiasm for the Lord's Supper and developed their own eucharistic theology. According to Jesus' instruction in the bible, they celebrated the Lord's Supper as often as they could and kept the balance between scriptural and sacramental elements in liturgy. Therefore, no element in liturgy was able to dominate over other elements. In addition, they founded the concept of the Lord's Supper as a means of grace by emphasizing the Spiritual presence of Christ's blood and body. (Catholics believe in the physical presence of Christ, the so-called transubstantiation.)

Like Wesley, modern Methodists in North America also have lived in a period of changes in the public worship. One of the liturgical reforms is that the Methodist Churches began realizing the importance of the Lord's Supper. Most Churches had infrequent communion, celebrating it quarterly. However, the Lord's Supper is now widely recognized as an ideal for liturgy by many Methodist Churches that celebrate the Lord's Supper more frequently than before, at least once a month.

Yet, modern Methodists still seem to miss something important in the Lord's Supper. I would like to remind you of Wesleys, who emphasized the work of the Holy Spirit and believed in the Spiritual presence that occurs in the Lord's Supper. Of course, it is important to celebrate the Lord's Supper on a frequent basis. However, what is more important, I think, is that the participants are able to encounter the living Christ through the Lord's Supper.

We should get rid of the idea of the Lord's Supper as just a symbolic ceremony and possess the belief in the Spiritual presence of Christ's body and blood. Then, we will be able to earnestly repent of our sins, receive the visible means of God's grace, and have the assurance of salvation through the Lord's Supper. And then, the table becomes the place where Christians keep religious solemnity, obtain visible grace, and taste heavenly joy.

When believing in the action of the Spirit in the Lord's Supper, we experience Christ's sacrificial self giving as, not only past history or future hope, but as present reality here and now in its very midst. Next time when you receive the elements, please remember this and experience the living Christ through his Spiritual body and blood. Amen.

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**THRIFT SHOP NEWS**

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The thrift shop will be closed for the months of January and February, to reopen in March when we have warmer weather.

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**SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS DINNER THANK YOU**

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On Thursday December 19th we served the best Christmas Dinner in town at our Soup Kitchen and followed it up with a caroling singalong. We sent our guests home with big plates of leftovers, and the extras will be converted to soups and stews for future Thursdays.

Thanks to all the servers, cooks, singers, and musicians who served God and our neighbors and friends in this ministry.

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**CAROLING 2013**

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On Sunday December 22nd eighteen singers and seven instrumentalists visited the Arbors in Bohemia, the Babylon Beach House (wonderfully restored after being flooded during Superstorm Sandy) and home-bound members of our congregation. We sang and played with those we visited and gave out over 90 lyric books as gifts.

Thanks to all who lent their time and talents to spread the spirit of the season!

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**CHILDCARE MINISTRY REPORT**

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Our Day Care and Preschool is growing steadily. Enrollment jumped from 14 students in October to 22 students in December! We produced positive revenue every month in the fourth quarter of 2013 with total revenues to the Church of just about \$3,000 for the quarter.

About 90% of our revenue comes from Day Care with the remaining 10% from Preschool. Preschool programs are easy to establish and there are many local preschools, but programs are limited to 2 1/2 hours maximum per day. Our Day Care license is much more difficult to obtain and maintain, but it allows us to keep children a full day. Many of our families are able to hold down jobs because of the high quality, reliable, affordable childcare we provide to the community. In December, our initial two year Day Care license was renewed for an additional four year period.

After months of heroic effort by Church volunteers, our growth is allowing us to hire more paid teachers, aides, and our new Childcare Director Ms. Amy Bowman, while still generating net positive revenue. Volunteers will continue to be an important part of our Childcare plan, but it's nice to give them a break.

We are actually approaching our licensed enrollment capacity on some days so work is underway to furnish and license two additional rooms, which will nearly double our capacity.

Thanks be to God for His grace and to all the many people whose prayers and service together have brought us through tough times to this level of success. Please keep the Childcare Ministry in your prayers as we begin our third year of service.

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## **OUR CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE**

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Did you know that our Church has a page on Facebook? If you use Facebook you can find it by searching for "Bay Shore United Methodist Church".

We post pictures of goings on at our Church and announcements of upcoming events almost every week. When you or your family "like" or share posts on our page some of your friends and neighbors will see them too.

Please try visiting us yourself or have someone who does use Facebook visit while being their tour guide. Whether you show them how glorious it is to be in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, tell them about the great picnics we have on Rally Day, or share pictures of Caroling or a Soup Kitchen Holiday Dinner, you can help carry the word about all the wonderful ways God is working at our Church.

Tom Wilson will be happy to post your Church photos and announcements on our Facebook page, just contact him at Services or via email to [twilson@brightwaters.com](mailto:twilson@brightwaters.com) Thanks for helping our Church reach out to the world in new ways.

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!****Notes from the Music Director****Happy St. Valentine's Day****Chamber Choir Rehearses**

Thursday February 13	7:00 pm. – 8:30 pm.	in the School Building
Thursday February 20-	7:00 pm. – 8:30 pm.	in the School Building
Thursday February 27-	7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	in the School Building

**Penataquit Handbell Choir**

Sunday February 2nd	11:15 am. – 12:00 pm.	West Room
Sunday February 16	11:15 am. – 12:00 pm.	West Room

**Youth Choir**

Sunday February 23	11:15 am. – 12:15 pm.	Sanctuary
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Anyone wishing to join our music groups, please speak with Danny. New members are always welcome!

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**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

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**BIRTHDAYS**

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Feb. 1	Jennette Hemmerle
Feb. 2	Christopher Forino, Rocco Gosline
Feb. 3	Katherine Cooper, Patrick Jones
Feb. 5	Zachry Abrams, Mark DiGiovanna, Charles Kirkup, Stephen Navratil
Feb. 8	Alison Finfrock
Feb. 10	Cindy Amos
Feb. 12	Dylan Schmalfuss
Feb. 15	John Witherspoon
Feb. 16	Joyce Bennett, Danielle Keskinen
Feb. 18	Dorothy Allen
Feb. 20	Charles Finfrock
Feb. 21	Alana Aceveda-Guittard
Feb. 22	Jameela Charles
Feb. 26	Geri DiGiovanna Elijah Davis, Bernard Essuman
Feb. 27	Deborah Biondolillo, Michael Lechner, Joyce Stein, Kelly Anne Williams
Feb. 28	John Maniscalco, Aaron King Thomas

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**ANNIVERSARIES**

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Feb. 8	William and Susan Yost
Feb. 14	Winston and Heather Charles

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**OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER**

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**Soup Kitchen**

Thursday - 4:30 p.m.

**Thrift Shop** Re-opening in March

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***The SPIRE February 2014***