



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

September 2015

Forgetting the Past and Reaching to the Future

As we enter into a new season, the fall, my favorite time of the year, not only brings new opportunities but affords us a fresh start. The Apostle Paul encourages us in Philippians 3:12, 13, and 14 to break away from our past failures, mistakes and press toward our goal. In this new season, we want to focus on a new and a fresh start.

Paul's past was filled with a great deal of mistakes. In his zeal for God he persecuted the Church of Jesus Christ, men, women and children, causing havoc, until he encountered Christ Jesus who transformed his life. Paul could have allowed himself to wallow in his past and keep making excuses why he could not change and move forward, but God used him in a powerful way to help build and restore the same Church that he once destroyed.

Sometimes, like the apostle Paul, our past is filled with a great deal of negative energy, but we don't want to get stuck in our past, we want to be free so we can see the light and move into the light together. What will it take for us to break away from our past and move into our future? Three things that Paul from his own experience shares with us are contained in this passage:

"Brothers, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press on toward the goal..." (Philippians 3:13, 14a)

1) "I do not count myself to have apprehended..."

Paul is simply saying that he is still in the struggle. His encounter with Christ Jesus has not made him perfect. He is still striving toward perfection; learning to love God and love his neighbors. He is totally and completely dependent on Christ for his every move.

Do you feel that you need to be perfect in order to please God? God is not asking us for perfection, but God is asking us to be honest with who we are, with our imperfections, failed and "messed up" past. God's grace is sufficient to enable us to be forgiven of all those past things and be his instruments in the world.

2) "But this one thing I do,"

This is the one thing that will make the difference in your life. This is paramount to you getting unstuck from the past with all its negative energies and reaching forward to your future. Paul was addressing the Church of Jesus Christ, people who have already encountered Christ in a relationship. So, we can be in relationship with Christ Jesus but still remain stuck if we are not careful. We don't want to be stuck anymore! What is that one thing?

a. “forgetting those things which are behind”

For us to get unstuck from our past, we must let it go. Past things can be weights and burdens and actually sins that overwhelm and plague us. We end up dragging all that garbage with us wherever we go. And guess what? We are not going anywhere because that garbage keeps pressing us down further and further into our past.

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” (Hebrews 12:1)

b. “and reaching forth to those things which are before,”

There are so many possibilities that God has for us as a local congregation, but if we are stuck in the past, there’s no way we can move into our “promised land.” To move forward or to press towards the future is not as easy as it sounds. It actually calls for mental and physical energy to be exerted. It calls us to reach forward and take hold of that which God has assigned to us. It’s ours but we will never attain it without reaching forth and taking it.

c. “I press on toward the goal...”

How many of us are changing our attitudes and moving forward in this new season? It takes all of us moving in the same direction, pressing forward in the same direction and having a positive attitude towards attaining our goal.

Getting rid of the past includes getting rid of negative language and pessimism; let us be sure to speak positive and uplifting words to each other. Before you speak, check yourself to make sure that what you are about to say speaks life and does not speak death to our Ministry.

We are a people of faith, which simply means that we are a people who dare to believe that God can do for us what we ask in prayer. Faith is not ignorance or empty belief; but faith is having confidence, belief and trust in God and in God’s word. Faith comes before your prayer is answered. Faith means that we use our abilities, our gifts and graces to do the work. Faith and work go hand-in-hand.

¹⁴ What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:14-17)

May this be a year we join together as a people of faith, resolve to follow the path God has set for us, and accomplish wonderful things in His name.

Blessings!

Pastor Wendy

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Welcome to Fall and hoping you had a wonderful and blessed summer. Beginning September 13th our Worship services will return to 10:00am with Sunday School at the same time.



RALLY SUNDAY – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th **LET'S FILL THE PEWS!**

Spread the word about Rally Day and invite your friends and neighbors. You know that Danny and the musicians are going to put on a wonderful program, Pastor Wendy will bring an inspiring Message, and the picnic after will be a great way to introduce your friends and neighbors to our wonderful fellowship.

POT LUCK PICNIC AND BARBECUE **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th**

Our Rally Day Pot Luck Picnic and Barbecue will be held on the Church lawn after Service on Sunday September 13th. Hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, paper goods, and cake will be provided. Each family is invited to bring a side dish or beverage to share.



The cost is \$6.00 per family. You can pay at the door. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall, or contact the Church Office (631-666-7194 or office@bayshoreumc.org) by Thursday, September 9th so we know how many people to buy for.

Come and enjoy the summer weather, our beautiful front lawn, and your Church Family as we celebrate one of our great fellowship traditions. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER?

No, we are not celebrating Christmas in September at Bay Shore UMC but it is not too soon for us to start thinking of our Christmas Craft Fair/Bake Sale. Please think of any crafts that you might make to donate. It is definitely too early to start baking but please start thinking about what homemade cookies, breads, etc. you might be able to make to donate. We will also be having our baskets as usual. Do you have any large baskets to donate? In a couple of weeks we will be posting on the bulletin board items needed for the various baskets. Hopefully that will give everyone time to get the items at a good sale price. Also, signup sheets will be posted for cookies and crafts. Please help as much as you can.

The Craft Fair will be on the second Friday and Saturday of November as usual - November 13 and 14. Friday evening will be held in conjunction with the Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner. It will be our Twenty-First Annual Craft Fair/Bake Sale. If everyone can help even a little bit, it will make this fundraiser a success!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As I sit here on a beautiful summer afternoon, I am thinking about our Church, and all it has seen. My family has been members going on 46 years, seeing all that it has gone through. Pastor Wendy is the 6th Pastor that has served us since I have been a member, and she faces many challenges serving us! I would like to encourage all members that are able to lend a hand in any way possible to do so. When my boys were in Sunday School some classes had 10 to 15 children in each class - try managing that while you are the teacher! MYF was thriving, and confirmation classes were full and very active. I would love to see us grow again even by a hand full at first!

If you are able to answer a phone, hold a paint brush, wash a window, call a shut in and tell them we miss them, call a member that hasn't attended recently and ask them to come back, anything at all is more than welcome. Even asking a friend to sit in a pew, adding even \$1 to the offering plate - all ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

I love this Church, its people, and all that it represents. Do we have problems - yes. But if we work together, all of us, we can grow together, and worship God in all his Glory. Amen.

-Ellen Fager.



IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

Dr. William Hoffman passed into Eternal Rest on May 5, 2015

Don Navratil passed into Eternal Rest on March 22, 2015

Arnie Muzzy passed into Eternal Rest on January 31, 2015

Please keep these men and their families in your thoughts and prayers. They were loyal and faithful members of our Church Family.

KITCHEN NEWS

As some of you are aware, due to a problem in August, all the food in the refrigerator had to be thrown away. The refrigerator has been cleaned and while in there it was noticed that other things need attention. We are asking anyone with items in the kitchen, please take them home.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee is planning training sessions for the ushers and the lay readers in September. Ushers will meet on Sunday, September 20th, following service, the lay readers will meet the following Sunday, September 27th. Please let Eric or Christine know if you are unavailable and something will be arranged.

PENNIES FOR PRESERVATION

Since this copy of the Spire will cover June and July I am going to give you the total amount of those two months. God encouraged us to donate \$62.00 for those months. Many thanks to those of you who are still contributing the extra change that comes your way.

EARLY HEADSTART PROGRAM COMING TO CHILDCARE

Earlier this year the Church was approached by Long Island Head Start to host an Early Headstart Program as part of our Childcare. After discussion by the Childcare Advisory Board including consultation with the Chairs of Finance and Trustees, the Church Council in its meeting of June 28th approved the proposal and a one year contract was signed on July 28th, with the expectation of program renewal for another five years. The Headstart class will consist of eight full time children ages 18 to 36 months that should arrive sometime in the next few weeks. In addition to the tuition that will be paid for these children, Headstart will completely furnish the classroom, provide educational and social resources for the families, and fund a significant upgrade of our playground. This opportunity has come to the Church because of the outstanding quality of our Childcare project. Let us thank the many staff, volunteers, and leaders whose hard work and dedication have contributed to that quality, and pray for continued growth and success of this community service ministry.

"He Who Sings, Prays Twice!"- St. Augustine

Notes from the Music Director

Returning Students

We would like to wish all returning students a very happy, healthy, successful, and blessed school year, especially Kailey Dowd, Kwasi Enin, and Kwaku Owusu, from our music ministry. Have a great year!

Lend Your Voice?

Our Chamber Choir is looking for new members. Anyone wishing to join our choir, please speak with Danny. Our choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the school building, and Sunday mornings at 9:00am, prior to worship service. Our first rehearsal of the season is Thursday September 10th. New members are always welcome!

Rehearsals

Chamber Choir

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Thursday September 10 th - | 7:00 pm. – 8:30 pm. | in the School Building Thursday |
| September 17 th - | 7:00 pm. – 8:30 pm. | in the School Building |
| Thursday September 24 th - | 7:00 pm. – 8:00 pm. | in the School Building |

FINANCE REPORT

Meeting current expenses continued to be very difficult through the summer. Congregational giving, though improved, is still more than 15% below the budget target. Thanks to a loan from Trustees we were able to make it through August but funds the Trustees could lend are almost gone and we still had to defer over \$7,000 in outstanding bills to September.

Remember that our current expense ledger is viewable at: bayshoreumc.org/currentexpense This allows you to see our actual income and expenses updated every week or so. Our Finance meetings are open to all who want to dig into the weeds of income, expenses, and budgets.

Increased fall attendance and the Early Headstart program should provide some additional revenue but we still have a lot of catching up to do. As always, please consider your circumstances prayerfully and thank you for what you are able to give to support our small corner of God's Universal Church. – Tom Wilson, Finance Chair.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Sept. 1 | Erik Udvardia | Sept. 17 | Maureen Guadalupe, Diane Lewis, |
| Sept. 5 | Heidi Fahey, Thomas Madeska | | Justin Wells |
| Sept. 6 | Irene O'Sullivan, Alice Swetland | Sept. 20 | Kaitlin Kresse, Edward Meehan |
| Sept. 7 | Ruth Cavanagh, Gregory Sassone | Sept. 21 | Emanuel Jones |
| Sept. 9 | McKenzie Dowd | Sept. 22 | Edward Owen, Ann Scharfenberg |
| Sept. 10 | Kevin LePrell | Sept. 24 | Joel DiGenaro, Lucy McCarthy |
| Sept. 11 | Lecretia Charles, Melissa Yost | Sept. 25 | Pastor Wendy Modeste |
| Sept. 12 | George Mack, Jr. | Sept. 26 | John Ferraro, Jr. |
| Sept. 15 | Raymond M. Allen, Jr., | Sept. 27 | Jonathan Bloom, Daniel Antonik |
| | Cynthia Finfrock, Rachel Wood | Sept. 28 | Jonathan Hoff, Joseph Calvacca |
| Sept. 16 | Ed Stein | Sept. 29 | Lenora Daniel, Jacqueline Suda |
| | | Sept. 30 | Emmanuel Jones |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sept. 8 | Raymond and Dorothy Allen |
| Sept. 10 | John and Barbara Witherspoon |
| Sept. 24 | Stephen and Jessica Schmalfuss |

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Soup Kitchen | Thursdays | 4:30 p.m. |
| Thrift Shop | Saturday | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |

RALLY DAY

September 13, 2015



Welcome back to Sunday school

All Children are invited to join us for a new year of fun and faithful Sunday school classes at the United Methodist Church of Bay Shore. Our fall program begins Sunday, September 13th.

Here is how to register and what to expect in the year ahead.

Pre- Registration

You can pre-register your children at any time for Sunday school Classes by completing the attached form and bringing it back to church any Sunday and giving it to an usher or bring the form to Rally Sunday.

Classes and Curriculum

Three Levels of Sunday School classes are offered this year

- ❖ Infant/Toddlers (all children up to 4years old)
- ❖ K-2nd Grade
- ❖ 3rd Grade-6th Grade
- ❖ 7th grade-12th Grade

Sunday school starts at 10:00am, the toddler room will be open at 9:45 upstairs every Sunday except family services. Children K-6th grade will meet in the worship room upstairs for a short service then they will be dismissed to their class rooms. 7th grade-12th grade students will meet in the Library for classes. Sunday School Classes focus on age appropriate fun activities based on Bible stories and lessons.

Safe Sanctuary

All Students up to grade 6 must be escorted to the upstairs worship room every Sunday by an adult and signed in, at the end of Sunday school an adult must come and pick up their child and sign them out.

Dorothy Allen, UMCBS Superintendent

Elaine Williams is now at
Bella Mi Salon
135 East Main Street East Islip NY

Bay Shore Day Care and Preschool

A nonsectarian public service ministry
of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

Fall Registration Now Open



"Where Children
Grow Through
Encouragement
and Discovery"

Day Care 18 months - 5 years 8am - 6pm M-F
Morning preschool classes for ages 2 to 4
631-647-4326 * bayshoreumc.org/childcare

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"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." - Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)