



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

January 2016

SERVING WITH JOY!

The wrapping paper and bows are in the trash. The tree is headed to the curb. And now our attention turns to the New Year.

This marks an exciting time in our journey as a Church. In 2016, we're launching new ministries that will expand our reach in the community. The goal is to revitalize our mission, inspire our existing membership and attract new faces to our church family. Here is an overview—more details are included inside the Spire.

Impact Bay Shore. The Rev. Dyanne Blair-Pina and longtime member Dale Dowd will be hosting a series of discussions that aim to help us find peace in a troubled world. Located at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library, the sessions will look at scripture and other teachings that aim to inform and inspire.

Neighborhood Ministry. In response to the increasing number of homeless people loitering and sleeping on church property, I will be undertaking a one-one-one ministry right outside our walls. Meeting with the homeless and offering communion and prayers, when desired, is the first step in helping homeless here. Short term, we will be providing information about resources and Care Kits. Longer term, we hope to enlist a number of local houses of worship to provide temporary shelter.

Elder Reach. Let's not forget our homebound members—the loyal, hard-working congregants who have helped sustain us throughout the decades. While most receive regular home visits and communion, I would like to rekindle their fellowship with each other. Starting this month, we will launch a conference-call ministry so that shut-ins can worship, study and share with each other.

Interfaith Youth. In the works is a plan to connect Bay Shore-area teens with each other with a series of open houses hosted by churches and other houses of worship. The goal is to engage and foster peace and harmony in the world—something all people of all races and faiths strive for.

It is no secret that our church has been struggling to fill both the pews and its coffers. If we expect to survive in the coming years, we must try new things. Let me emphasize again: Continuing with the same-old, same-old will only ensure our demise.

In 2016, I ask you to consider the long list of tasks and traditions that take place here. Is it time for some things to go away? Are there other ways to do them more efficiently?

Streamlining has an added benefit: It allows us to break the cycle of overwork, burnout, resentment and drop-out that is increasingly occurring here. Doing fewer things and doing them well will enable members to leave anger and bitterness behind and serve with joy.

My theme for 2016 will be Serving With Joy. Let's rethink our routines and try new things, even knowing that some things will fail. Our successes will be made all the sweeter knowing that we are becoming closer to God and, with God's help, revitalizing our church.

“Serve the Lord with gladness: come before him with singing.” Psalm 100:2

Happy New Year,
Pastor Wendy

A BELATED MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas from Gene and Jean Ufer and Millie Van Sicklen, who were inadvertently left off the Church Christmas card.

SCENES OF THE SEASON

See more pictures on our Facebook page: Bay Shore United Methodist Church



The Sanctuary



The Altar



Nativity Scene



On the fourth Sunday of Advent (the Sunday of Love), members of the congregation decorated the family tree in Fellowship Hall with prayer requests.



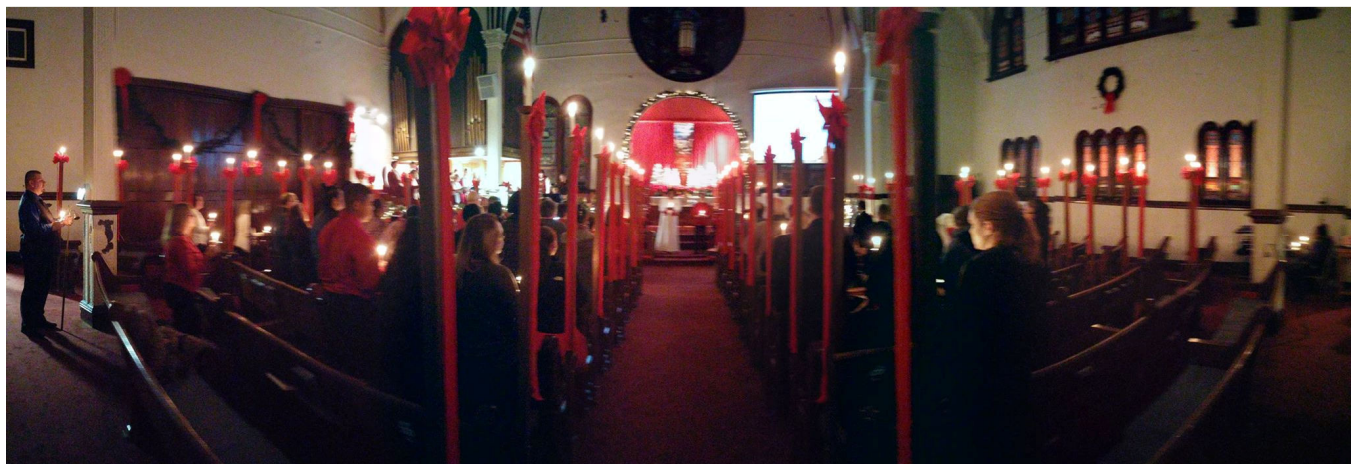
The Children's Christmas Pageant

Thanks to the musicians and singers who lent their time and talents to spread the joy of the season. On a very mild Sunday afternoon we caroled to seven different locations, tying last year's all time record. We visited shut-ins and adult homes and gave out over 100 lyric booklets as gifts.

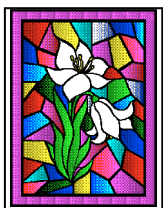


On the Thursday before Christmas (this year that was Christmas Eve), our weekly Soup Kitchen expanded to the best holiday dinner in town - because none of us cook as well as all of us. Guests this year enjoyed table service, gifts of hats and gloves, a caroling sing-along, and an additional full meal packaged for takeout.

Thanks to the donors and volunteers for their generosity. May the joy you shared be returned to you many times in the coming year!



Passing the light at the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. As we sang "Silent Night", the flame from the Christ candle on the altar was shared from person to person until the entire sanctuary was filled with candlelight.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Our friend and sister in Christ, Marjorie Hogan, passed into the Life Eternal on December 3rd. Please include her husband Bob, her children, grandchildren, and friends in your prayers.

DEGREENING THE SANCTUARY

A big thank you to all those who helped with the Greening of the Sanctuary in early December. The garland, wreaths, tree, nativity scene and candle poles all set the stage for a beautiful Christmas season. Now we look forward to the New Year. Please join us on Jan. 3, Epiphany Sunday, as we de-green the sanctuary to start 2016 afresh. --The Worship Committee



YUM YUM FUN

On Saturday, Jan. 9, Newsday's food expert Erica Marcus will give a cooking demonstration in Fellowship Hall, the latest installment in our Adult Fellowship ministry. Erica will show us how to make a butterflied chicken roast and share recipes for her "go-to" tomato sauces. Following the demo, we'll enjoy some of Erica's tasty creations.

Date: Saturday, Jan. 9 at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Fee is \$5

To register, please see Beth DeCarbo or email heybeth@optonline.net

WE HEART YOU!

Save the date: On Saturday, Feb. 13, master crafter Jean Finrock will teach us techniques to make lovely (and loving) Valentines. As part of Adult Fellowship, participants will get hands-on activities and take home their handiwork. All materials will be provided. Rookies welcome – no crafting experience is required.

Date: Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Fee is \$5



GETTING BUSY: INTERFAITH YOUTH (IY)

Coming soon: A series of interfaith youth gatherings at houses of worship in the Bay Shore area. Youth groups from various congregations will come together to provide community service and have a dialogue about issues affecting teens today. Bay Shore United Methodist Church will be among the first to host an open house, inviting those of all faiths to gather in peace -- and for a slice of pizza!

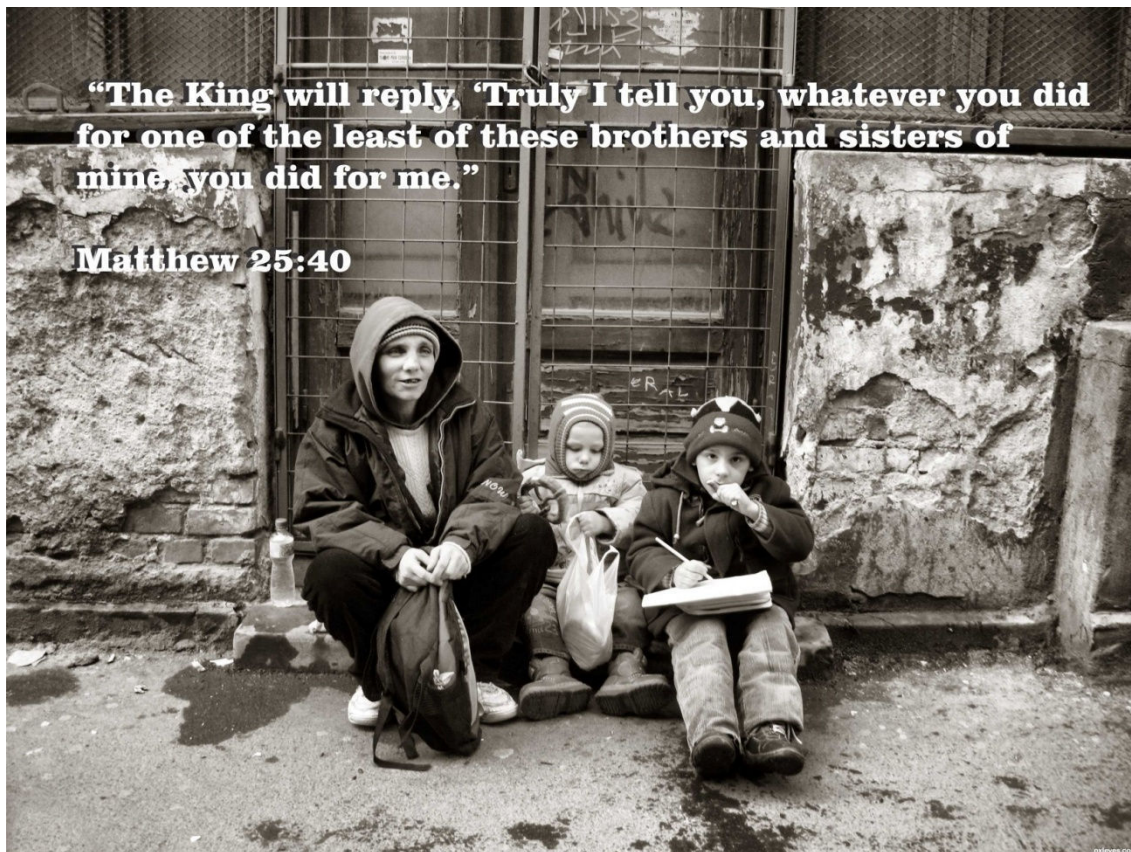
More details to follow. If you would like to donate toward the cause or get involved, please see Pastor Wendy.

INTRODUCING ELDER REACH

Starting early this year, we're launching an Elder Reach ministry to help connect longtime members who are unable to come to church. The goal is to provide fellowship to shut-ins and senior members who have moved away, bringing them back into the fold of our church family.

I'll be leading a conference-call Bible study once a week, with sessions lasting between a half-hour to an hour. Linda Napolitano will be joining me in this venture, furthering the relationships we have developed with regular elder visits and communion.

We plan to provide an occasional "elder update" during Sunday services and in the Spire. As this ministry evolves, we hope to discover other ways that homebound members can remain active in our church and community. We're always looking for ideas and inspiration, so let me know if you would like to get involved. – Pastor Wendy.



PROJECT HOMELESS – A PARKING LOT MINISTRY

An increasing number of homeless people and loiterers are spending their days – and nights – on Church property. Their presence, though mostly harmless, potentially puts children enrolled in our Childcare, their parents as well as members of our congregation at risk. With the harsh winter weather, we have a two-part plan to ensure that everyone – including the homeless – is safe.

Phase I: Pastor Wendy will, when feasible, meet with individuals loitering on church property, hear their concerns, pray with them, and offer communion. Each person will be given a card that explains why they cannot loiter on church property. It will also contain information on nearby soup kitchens (including our own), food pantries, veterans' services and temporary housing programs.

Individuals who have no living accommodations will also be given a Care Kit with shampoo/body wash, shaving cream/razor, toothbrush/toothpaste, deodorant and cheese crackers. Funds for the Care Kits were generously donated by Long Island Rocks for the Homeless and Veterans. Thanks also to members of our Girl Scout troop who packaged the Care Kits for easy distribution.

Loiterers will then be respectfully asked to leave church property and informed that we will have to call local authorities if they do not comply.

Phase II: Along with other houses of worship in the Bay Shore area, we will explore an ecumenical approach to homelessness. For example, in the Town of Huntington, about two dozen houses of worship provide overnight lodging to homeless people on a rotating basis. A fact-finding task force will determine resources – space, staffing, funding, feasibility – for this effort.

--Pastor Wendy Modeste

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 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
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 Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

Thrift Shop Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CONNECT WITH BAY SHORE UMC

Website: bayshoreumc.org

Pastor's email: pastor@bayshoreumc.org Office email: office@bayshoreumc.org



Find us on Facebook: click on the icon on the upper right of our website home page

Yahoo email group: to receive occasional emailed news and notices about the Church, please send a request to be added to office@bayshoreumc.org.

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Send news and announcements to Spire Editor Ellen Fager at citylife4@verizon.net

The SPIRE is available in electronic form on our website (click MEDIA / e-Newsletter) or printed and mailed. Send mailing requests, removal requests, and address corrections to the Church office:
Tel: [631-666-7194](tel:631-666-7194), email: office@bayshoreumc.org, Postal: 106 East Main Street, Bay Shore NY 11706

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

IMPACT

Finding peace in a troubled world

We live in a time of fear -- terrorist attacks, campus shootings and natural disasters. How can we find peace and learn to live the life that God wants for us? In this forum, we share ways to cultivate inner calmness and be a rock for our families. This isn't about politics, it's about how we as people cope and find comfort.

WHEN

Jan. 28
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

WHERE

Bay Shore-Brightwaters Public Library
1 South Country Road,

SPONSORED BY

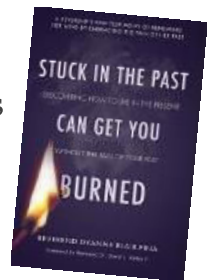
United Methodist Church of Bay Shore,
The Rev. Wendy Modeste

IMPACTBAYSHORE@GMAIL.COM

MODERATORS



The Rev. Dyanne Blair-Pina is trained in youth and family counseling, as well as crisis bereavement. Author of 'Stuck in the Past Can Get You Burned.'



Dale Dowd is a local mom with four daughters. A lifelong Bay Shore-Brightwaters resident, Dale wants to help make the world a better place for future generations.

All are invited. The event is free.

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

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“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

– Matthew 2:11-12.