

May 2009

# Church Herald

***Stony Brook Community Church, United Methodist***  
**216 Christian Ave, Stony Brook NY 11790**  
**Office: 631-751-0574**

## **The Pastor's Column**

Easter has brought the reminder that God is always renewing life and everything blossoms it brings me to think about how are we continually renewing the ways we engage in ministry. On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful turnout for our "Op Shop" Work Day. At least 25 people, ranging in age from 8- over 70, pitched in to paint, construct a new sign, rake, trim, plant and put a new face on the OP SHOP, our wonderful thrift shop. Indeed, the beautiful weather brought great energy.

However, as Spring has mixed with summer temperatures ,we begin to see attendance at worship and church school fall off as June approaches. I hope you will rethink that tendency this year. We have some exciting plans in the works. This month we will be enjoying the Progressive Dinner, our annual Musicale, our All Church Retreat at Camp Quinipet, Commitment Sunday for our support of the 2009-10 budget, a congregational meeting on a new mission project, and a highlight of church life – Confirmation Sunday. I hope that you will be part of all of this.

This week, some of us attended a NY Annual Conference event called **RETHINK CHURCH**. This new emphasis of the UMC is to draw attention to the church as an active place, committed to engaging local communities and the world in mission, and ready to be responsive to the needs of those outside the church. You may begin to see advertising in unusual places with this theme. The target audience is 18-34 year old persons who are visibly missing from our congregations. What can we do? We've been asking that same question now in many ways. At our last planning retreat, we spent some of our time thinking about how we might relate better to the university students. Do you have some ideas? On Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, we'll gather over a light lunch after church to decide on a mission/outreach project that we all might take part in. One idea that is floating is create a community garden to offer fresh food to the poor. That would be something that would be very visible to the community, use the resources we already have, and a unique and tangible way to do something more to address hunger. We are RETHINKing Church. Hope you will join us.

This beautiful weather will take us back to West Meadow Beach for "Wednesday Nights at the Beach". We will begin on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Come to the pavilion area anytime after 6 pm, bring everything you need for dinner (including chairs, place settings, food, beverages, etc.) and join in games on beach, talk around the table, or a sunset walk.

Indeed, Easter brings the message of new life. May this Spring renew your faith, plant seeds in your imaginations, and water the soil to receive God's call to live in the power of love.

God be with you,  
*Pastor Liz*

## **Church News and Notes**

### **Church Retreat**

Join us for the Spring All Church Retreat at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island, NY  
May 8-10  
A special time for all ages  
Come for the whole time or part of the time

Cost: Adult (overnight) \$50  
Children \$20  
Saturday Daytime \$20

### **Annual Spring Musicale**

Sunday, May 3rd, 4:00 pm  
Concert featuring: Christine Free, soprano; Jacob Rhodebeck, piano; Robert Price, organ; Ellen Phipps, bells.  
Tickets - \$12, Senior and students \$10.  
Reception following the concert.  
Concert supporters are encouraged to contribute as sponsors, benefactors, patrons or donors.  
Look for the flyer in the bulletin for more details.

### **Vacation Bible School**

The Community Vacation Bible School program is scheduled for the week of July 13 through the 17<sup>th</sup>  
This is a wonderful program that our church has been participating in for many years.  
Watch the monthly newsletter and church bulletin for more details and registration information as it becomes available.

### **2009 Summer Performing Arts Program @ the Stony Brook Community Church**

The PERFORMING ARTS CAMP is a Musical Theatre Workshop for Ages 7 to 15, that includes Acting, Voice, Dance, Improvisation and Rehearsals for an Open House Performance of an abridged Musical Theatre Production on the last day of each session.

The cost is \$495 per session with a 10% discount for siblings and double-sessions.  
To register, download an enrollment form at the church website:  
<http://www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org/>

and mail it along with a \$100 non-refundable deposit to:

Performing Arts Camp@ Stony Brook Community Church,  
216 Christian Ave., Stony Brook, NY 11790.

For further questions, please contact Sherrill Jones at [performingartscamp@gmail.com](mailto:performingartscamp@gmail.com) or phone 631-751-6740.

### **United Methodist Women**

What Your Pledges Do.

Through our pledges and fund-raising projects, our UMW unit supports the missions of the United Methodist Church that focus on social concerns involving women and children at local, national, and international levels. Through the proceeds of our annual Book Fair, Plant Sale and Holiday Greens and Wreath sale, donations are given to a variety of non-profit organizations.

The following are programs that have received monies from the SBCC UMW in 2008:

Habitat for Humanity  
Ministries of Coram  
Herstory  
UMCOR  
Eastern Farm Workers Association  
Hobbes Farm  
National Organization for Rare Diseases  
Pledge to Mission  
Racial Justice  
Health  
Children and Youth

### **May Calendar**

May 2 – Progressive Dinner  
May 3, 4pm – Spring Musicale  
May 5 – 7:30 – Anniversary Committee  
7 – 7:45 pm – Finance Committee  
8-10 – Church Retreat at Camp Quinipet  
11- 7:30 – Trustees  
17 – Commitment Sunday  
17- 11:30am – Mission Planning Meeting  
19 – Church Council  
27 – 6 pm – “Wednesday Night at the Beach  
31 – Confirmation Sunday

A full printable calendar is available at the website: <http://www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org>

## **Stewardship**

Ready, get set – COMMIT

Just between you and me – keep it a secret -I think I got this whole stewardship business and money and all backwards.

Your and my commitment to the way of love - the way Jesus went about loving all things and people of creation – simply comes first in our lives. The answer to the height, depth, width, whatever of that commitment, how we describe it is very personal – one commitment does not fit all, but ours sure fits us!! Then we are able naturally to see life ready to be embraced and loved in a every way necessary in the spirit of that love. We see a need and we know in our heart and soul and mind that we gotta do something to meet it and know what we, in our uniqueness, can do to love that world.

If you are still with me in my thinking, then you can hear me say that that's how I came to my giving lots of time and energy to my beloved community named Stony Brook Community Church and the whole wide world God loves. YEss, I get excited about giving, about making the ministry of SBCC continue to fly and embrace the world God loves so much. With my particular commitment – as you have your particular commitment – doing what is necessary to keep the engine of mission alive and well is a joy, not a drag on my soul.

So presuming we all can join our unique commitments to the way of love in the spirit of Jesus, here's the plan for making sure the engine of care and mission at SBCC stays vital and exciting for next year – and further.

Sunday, May 3rd – a power-point presentation by Jeff Harshman regarding the nuts and bolts needs financially for our mission and loving

Sunday May 17th – Commitment Sunday with focus on celebrating our unique ways of joining those commitments into a tapestry

Between now and the 17th and after I will be sending information to you all to help you find your way to support the SBCC engine of mission and love. Feel free to call me anytime at 631-316-1898 to share any questions concerns and ideas regarding your particular commitment concerns. I don't know of a commitment, focused on love in the way of Jesus, that isn't acceptable.

Our goal is to have a concrete idea of monies, energy, talents, available July 1st as we all continue to be faithful in meshing our beloved community together.

Wally Robinson,  
Stewardship Chair

