

# The Church Herald

Stony Brook Community Church (United Methodist), Stony Brook, New York



## STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

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### Table of Contents

- 1.....Pastor's Message
- 2.....Upcoming Events
- 3.....In Memory - Diana Reaven
- 3.....Stewardship Update
- 4.....Friends of Flax Pond
- 5.....Church Officers 2012
- 7.....How the General Conference Works

Please send updates and information to  
Newsletter Editor, Bob Retnauer, at  
bobretnauer@optimum.net

The next issue will be available approx. 2/21  
and the deadline to submit information is 2/14.

### The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,  
To make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman

Happy New Year!



The new year has begun! Is anything different? We have just been through the seasons of Advent and Christmas, again focusing on the incredible miracle of God's choice to put on "some skin" and walk among us as Jesus walked. With our celebrations came the reminder that we are about the embodiment of hope, peace, joy and love. But is anything different? Have we put away the decorations and packed away the "Christmas Spirit" as well?

I hope not! With the new year, often comes the expectation that things will be different this year. That's a good thing! The idea of a "fresh start" helps us to take stock, muster determination to not let the hard places defeat us, to do things a little differently this year. I like that so I make my lists and check them twice and stay on task – well – for at a couple of weeks. "But this year will be different", I say.

So, how will your life and the life of the world be different this year? Christmas has come and gone and the world, of course, has not changed. But I hope that we are in a different place. We, like Moses and the shepherds, and Jacob have seen God face-to-face and prevailed.

So, don't let "the bleak midwinter" get you down. We are called to begin where we left off and yet to make a new beginning. "Be the change you wish to see in the world!" I have a plaque in my office that reminds me of that quote of Mahatma Ghandi.

Christ's presence has hallowed all that we are and every place in which we stand, and by his grace the world and we can never be quite the same again. Therefore we begin again, that in leaving the manger we may embrace the world for his sake and for ours.

The work of Christmas begins.....

Moving forward,  
*Pastor Liz*



### NYAC VISION STATEMENT

The New York Annual Conference, through the grace of God, embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heartwarmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Upcoming Lectionary Readings

January 22, 2012 [Green] - Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787); 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 29, 2012 [Green] - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111 (UMH 832); 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 5, 2012 [Green] - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859); 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 12, 2012 [Green] - Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany  
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30 (UMH 762); 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

February 19, 2012 [White] - Transfiguration Sunday/Last Sunday After the Epiphany  
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783); 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9



### Lenten Schedule

**Ash Wednesday:** February 22nd - As is our tradition, we will have a prayer vigil during the day in our sanctuary, with an evening soup supper and service at St. James United Methodist Church beginning at 7:00 PM.

During the following four weeks we will have a Lenten Soup Supper in our sanctuary, followed by a study (to be determined). Those will take place on Wednesday's, February 29th, March 7, 14, and 21.

**Holy Week:** Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Communion will take place in our sanctuary and there will be a community Good Friday Service from 12 noon-3 PM ( place to be determined).



### Valentino Night

Please put Valentino Night on your schedule - Sunday, February 12th at 6:30 pm. Tickets will be available this week. Also, there will be a sign up sheet for food and supply donations as well as those who are able to help.

Also, please put Sunday, January 29th on your calendar. There will be a youth activity night in the Gym from 4-6 pm. We will invite the youth from Setauket to join us and let's see if we can have a great volleyball tournament!



## **IN MEMORY**

Diana Louise Reaven - 1945-2012

Our sympathy to the family of Diana Reaven. Diana died on Wednesday, January 11th. She suffered from Pancreatic Cancer. A funeral service with burial was held at St. James Episcopal Church on Monday, January 16..There will be a memorial service in our sanctuary on Sunday, January 29th at 2:30 p.m.

Her husband, Sheldon, wrote a wonderful tribute to her - just a few excerpts are printed below:

“Diana lived life with gusto. She adored ballet (above all), opera, chamber music and favorites from Iris DeMent to Paul Robeson to Jeanette Macdonald/Nelson Eddy; painting, drawing ( especially her own landscape pastels), art history, and museum going; world travel- especially cruises - from Paris to Patagonia; mystery novels, British comedies and dramas; antiques, and lots more.... Gardening was her passion, her calling....

Community in worship and service to God was yet another anchor of Diana’s life, expressed in her many years as a trustee of Stony Brook Community Church, Bible Study, and church projects generally.... We also drew from the wells of the Taize worship community at Little Portion Friary, various Jewish venues, and our travel to sacred spaces worldwide.”

Diana leaves four children: Tory, Amber, and Adriana Rinderknecht, Nathan Reaven; one step-child, Ariana Reaven Rabinovitch; and four grandchildren. She is also survived by her 90 year-old father, her sister and her brother.

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

What is your faith worth to you? It is said that about one fifth of all of Jesus’ teachings have to do with money... yet how many of us really think of Jesus in this way? How many of us equate faith and money altogether? I don’t know about you but maybe I need a few reminders of the power of faith and money from time to time. I think one of the most powerful sayings comes from Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Or what about a darker view from I Timothy 6:10, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Or, a more happy verse from 2 Corinthians 9:7, “Each one must give as he or she has decided in his or her heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” That line reminds me of a three thousand word sermon I did a few years back at the Setauket Presbyterian Church... don’t worry, I won’t do that to you this year! What about the great Bible stories on money like the Widow’s mite or the Rich man... what lessons do they give us about money and faith? The Bible guides us in so many ways and I would like to know how it has guided you to pledge this year. I am challenging the congregation to send in their favorite Bible passages on money as an inspiration to all of us. We will publish all responses in the next newsletter. My hope is that the next newsletter is both inspirational and... sizeable from your response! May the Spirit guide you in this challenge, in Christ, Joe Betz.

Update: As of January 19, 2012, 24 pledges have been received totaling \$59,420 for the operating budget and \$2,836 in anticipated giving for social concerns.



Hi Friends,

Our Kick Off of the Winter Lecture Series has been changed to Sunday, February 5th at Childs' Mansion at 3:00 pm, due to the memorial service for Diana Reaven. For more details please see the message from Malcolm attached below.

#### Friends of Flax Pond Announces 8th Annual Winter Lecture Series

"The Friends of Flax Pond's Eighth Annual Winter Lecture Series originally scheduled to begin on January 29, 2012 has been rescheduled for February 5, 2012.

All lectures are held from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm at Childs Mansion, on Shore Drive in Stony Brook. Directions are at the end of the Lecture deatisl, for you convenience. Please use these rather than mapquest, google or GPS, since they are very inaccurate. The mansion is on Shore Drive off Crane Neck Road. Parking is available at the Flax Pond Lab, just past the mansion.

Malcolm Bowman, PhD, Distinguished Service Professor at Stony Brook University will moderate the lectures. Light refreshments will be served. As always the lectures are free but donations are gratefully welcomed. For more information on any of the lectures e-mail [flaxpondfriends@gmail.com](mailto:flaxpondfriends@gmail.com) or call 631-767-6287.

Sunday, January 29, 2012 now February 5, 2012

Our featured speaker will be the Director of the Living Resources Institute at Stony Brook University, Bill Wise. He will present his research on "The History of Menhaden Fishing in New York." The presentation will highlight the transition of the fishing of Menhaden from beach seine to ocean purse seine. This fish, regarded by some to be the most important fish in the ocean, is an ecological keystone species on which many species depend. The Menhaden's numbers have been drastically reduced. Come learn about the history of New York's role in this important ecological issue and current management strategies.

Sunday, February 26th

Carl Safina, noted author, co-founder of the Blue Ocean Institute, adjunct professor at SUNY Stony Brook, now works mainly to help highlight and explain how the ocean is changing and what that means for wildlife and for people. His new TV series, Saving the Ocean, premiered on PBS in April 2011. His presentation is dependent on his PBS filming schedule. He will be talking about his perspectives on today's environmental issues. He will also have copies of his books available for purchase and autograph. (A full bio is available at [www.blueocean.org](http://www.blueocean.org))

In the event that Dr. Safina has a scheduling conflict, we will have a research update from Steve Abrams, manager of the Flax Pond Lab, as well as Elliott Kurtz, Diamondback Terrapin Nesting Survey Principle Investigator, and Eileen Gerle, Master Naturalist and West Meadow Preserve Park Ranger. Steve Abrams will cover changes in the species found in Flax Pond and discuss the implications. Elliott Kurtz and Eileen Gerle will provide an update on their Diamondback Terrapin Nesting Survey and compare the research to previous years' results. We will also be recruiting volunteers for the Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey, Diamondback Terrapin Nesting Survey and Flax Pond Summer Institute.

Sunday, March 25th

John Turner - will speak about the "Horseshoe Crab - Shore Bird Connection." He also has a book on shore birds which he will have available for purchase and autograph.

Sunday, April 29th

The Annual Bird/ Nature Walk at Flax Pond will be held on Sunday, April 29th. Watch for details.

All the lectures are held at Childs Mansion at 3:00 pm - 4:30pm. Childs Mansion is located on Shore Drive (Off Crane Neck Road) with parking available at Stony Brook University's Flax Pond Lab (next to the mansion.)





**2012 CHURCH OFFICERS**

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Bold indicates new election this CC or since last CC

Chairperson, Church Council	Patricia Martin
Lay Leader	Michele Dexter
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Sherrill Jones
Reserve Member to Annual Conference	Donna Smith
Secretary, Church Council	Donna Smith
Membership Secretary	Jim Murphy
Financial Secretary	Dave D'Orazio
Church Treasurer	Malcolm Bowman
Stewardship Work Area	Donna Smith
Social Concerns	Michele Dexter
Mission Work Area	Christine Marino
Nursery Coordinator	TBD
Children & Youth Coordinator( Staff)	Bob Retnauer
Newsletter Editor, "The Church Herald"	Laura Lestrade
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair	Beth and Peter Lunde
Finance Committee Chair	Carolyn Martin
Board of Trustees President	Mark and Christine Marino
Apple Festival Chairpersons	Mark Cadicamo
Youth Activities Council Chairperson	Carla Retnauer
UMW President (s)	

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Kathy Martin	Maureen Tangen	Laura Reed
Joe Betz	Gail Chase	
	Bobbi Johnson	

**ORGANIZATIONS**

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, PRESIDENT**

Chairperson: Carla Retnauer

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES COUNCIL**

Chairperson: Mark Cadicamo

Members: Donna Smith, Sherrill Jones, Jennifer Alexander, Jillian Cafarella, Carolyn Graham

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chairperson: Carolyn Martin

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Dave Klecher	Jim Graham	Carolyn Martin?
Gail Chase		
Lindsay Meyer	Whitney Roberts	Malcolm Bowman



**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Laura Lestrade

Lay Leader: Pat Martin

Class of 2012

Class of 2013

Class of 2014

Jen Betz

Bill Hamilton

Mark Cadicamo

Judy Estes

Waveney Bowman

Susan Murphy

Beth Lunde

Laura Lestrade

Dave Cafarella

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Beth and Peter Lunde

Financial Secretary: Jim Murphy

Lay Leader: Pat Martin

Chairperson of Church Council:

Assistant Treasurer: Peter Lunde

Beth Lunde

Lay Member of Annual Conf: Michele Dexter

Trustee Treasurer: Lindsay Meyer

Church Treasurer: Dave D'Orazio

**COMMITTEE ON LAY NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Chairperson: Elizabeth Braddon

Vice Chairperson: Pat Martin

Class of 2012

Class of 2013

Class of 2014

Henry Poor

Michele Dexter

Jerry Meyer

Carolyn Martin

Jillian Cafarella

Donna Smith

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Judy Estes

Committee: Ruth Regan, Don Estes,

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Joan Fraccalvieri, and Susan Trawick

Social Hour Coordinator: Maureen Tangen

Susan Murphy, Carolyn Martin, Patricia Martin, Lindsay Meyer, Henry Poor

**MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Waveney Bowman

Waveney Bowman, Joan Wingerter, Valerie Grehan, Sherrill Jones, Christine Marino, Henry Poor

**ALTAR FLOWER COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Elsie Cadicamo

Joan Fraccalvieri, Kathy Martin

**PARSONAGE COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Gail Chase

Jim Graham (Trustee Rep), Jerry Meyer (SPRC Chair/Rep)

**HISTORY AND RECORDS**

Donna Smith and Sarah Murphy

**GREETERS COORDINATOR**

Sharon Klecher

**USHER COORDINATOR**

Robert Chase

**MEMORIAL GIFT COMMITTEE**

Chairperson: Elsie Cadicamo

Class of 2012

Class of 2013

Class of 2014

Ethel Courtney

Elsie Cadicamo

Maureen Tangen ?

Albert Cadicamo

Duane Hix

Bob Chase ?



## How General Conference Works



### Overview

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body, the General Conference, will gather April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Florida. Nine hundred and eighty-eight delegates from around the world will set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other business. General Conference is the only entity that speaks for The United Methodist Church.

The 2012 conference has been planned by the 25 -member Commission on the General Conference, led by Randall Miller of Emeryville, Calif. . A local committee from the Florida Annual Conference under the leadership of Bishop Timothy Whitaker , is hosting the event. Marilyn Swanson is chairperson of the Host Committee. Some 4,000 people will serve in a variety of volunteer roles such as greeters, registration officials, marshals, pages, translators, hosts and hostesses, guides, drivers, musicians, technicians, reporters and emergency-response volunteers.

### The Site

Sites for the international gatherings, held every four years, are rotated among the church's five regional U.S. jurisdictions. The 2000 conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio (North Central Jurisdiction), the 2004 conference was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Northeastern Jurisdiction), and the 2008 conference was held in Fort Worth, Texas (South Central Jurisdiction). The 2012 conference is being held in Tampa, Florida, part of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. The 2016 General Conference will meet in Portland, Oregon. (Western Jurisdiction).

### Main Tasks

During the 11 -day session, 988 delegates will revise The Book of Discipline, which regulates the manner in which local churches, annual conferences and general agencies are organized. The book sets policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures. The assembly may modify most disciplinary paragraphs by majority vote, but the Constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote, followed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in annual conference



session. Delegates may not revoke or change the Articles of Religion or the Confession of Faith unless two-thirds of the delegates agree to change this provision and three-fourths of the annual conference members also agree.

Delegates also revise *The Book of Resolutions*, a volume declaring the church's stance on a variety of social justice issues. The book contains more than 300 resolutions that are considered instructive and persuasive, but are not binding on members.

In addition, the assembly approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years and elects members of the Judicial Council and the University Senate.

#### Delegates

Equal numbers of lay and clergy delegates are selected from each annual conference. Every annual conference is guaranteed one lay and one clergy delegate.

Just as the U.S. Congress redistricts every 10 years following a national census, the number of lay and clergy delegates assigned from each annual conference changes each quadrennium based on the number of lay and clergy members. The total number of delegates is limited to 1,000. The 2012 conference will have an increased number of delegates from outside the United States.

Groups of churches in Africa, Asia and Europe are known as "central conferences." Central conferences will have 372 delegates, up 96 from the 2008 assembly and up 186 from the gathering in 2004. Two hundred eighty-two of the central conference delegates will be from Africa, up 90 from 2008. The 24 annual conferences in the Philippines will have 48 delegates. An additional 10 delegates will come from "concordat" churches with which the denomination has a formal relationship: four from Great Britain and two each from Puerto Rico, Mexico and the Caribbean & the Americas. The United Methodist Church has special covenant relationships with the Methodist traditions in those countries.

#### Bishops

Retired and active bishops attend the conference but do not vote and may not speak in plenary sessions without permission from the assembly. Individual bishops preside over business sessions, normally serving for one morning, afternoon or evening period. All bishops, active and retired, attend the entire conference. Presiding bishops are selected by a General Conference committee. Each presiding bishop selects a bishop to serve as a parliamentarian.

#### Legislation

Primary sources of legislation are petitions and proposals from church agencies and organizations. Petitions must be submitted 210 days before the opening of the conference. Any organization, ordained minister or lay member of the church may petition the General Conference. Approximately 1,600 pieces of legislation are expected at the 2012 assembly.

As in the U.S. Congress, the bulk of General Conference business is conducted in legislative committees. Each committee receives petitions and proposals, debates them, and determines whether to approve, amend, combine or reject them for recommendation to the full body of General Conference.

All proposed legislation—from individuals, organizations, churchwide agencies and annual conferences—is printed in the *Advance Daily Christian Advocate*.