

God is still speaking, at ...



# THE UNITED CHURCH

of

## Rockville Centre

---

*May 17, 2010*

*Volume 11, Issue 5*

---

### **A Pastor's Privilege**

To be a pastor is one of the most privileged callings imaginable. Who else can walk into any home, any hospital, jail, into houses of government and homeless shelters, at formal balls and at the beach, at the birth of infants and the death of people of any age, in times of celebration and times of mourning, and all the times in between when a listening ear is needed? All because a pastor's job is literally anywhere and everywhere, in all circumstances where the human and divine intersect.

This freedom to serve carries, needless to say, a certain burden and responsibility: the burden and responsibility of caring. It is a happy burden and a welcome responsibility, as well as a challenge. It is somewhat similar, perhaps, to climbing Mt. Katahdin in Maine (other mountains would do, but that's the one that I have climbed, not just driven to). The view is wonderful and breath-taking, but it takes a lot of work to get there. This "work" in being a pastor consists in the constant integration of people's suffering, short-sightedness and shadow-side with the compassion and wisdom of Christ, so that we are able to face the dark side of human life in all its meanness, horror and evil without losing sight of the ultimate power of love and transformation. To be a pastor means intentionally to engage on a daily basis in self-reflection, self-acceptance, self-forgiveness, humility and powerlessness—the basic elements of spiritual growth in the context of faith in the unconditional love of God. Without this inward integration and malleability, no pastor can sustain the burden and privilege of his/her call.

It is no different for lay people. Day in, day out, ordinary people (no matter their station or role) face the same forms of suffering, of despair, hope, joy, rage, struggle and love. Everyone needs spiritual consciousness and access to inner resources of faith in order to meet these challenges. That is why we have churches: as I have often said, churches are both hospitals to tend and heal the wounded, sick and dying, and schools for learning how to live and love and let go, over and over again. Church should be the place where we are able to put our daily struggles and our greatest joys in the larger context of a faith-filled (or faith-seeking) life.

Everyone in this congregation is anxious to grow our membership. We seem to do a pretty good job at presenting ourselves as a friendly church. But do we convey, as people walk into the sanctuary, that we are also a church in mission, and that we are a people of faith? Do we see ourselves as having a purpose in our individual lives and our community that is essentially related to our faith in God and Christ? When people walk into our sanctuary do they not only see the stained glass windows, but feel a presence of the Spirit? Have we learned how to be kinder to one another and how to bite our tongues sooner rather than belatedly? How much of our conversation is positive? How much is negative? If a stranger comes to our church, would they have the impression, without asking any questions, that here is where they could deepen their faith, grow closer to God and find support for their life's journey? How is it with you?

Blessings,  
Pastor Bob

## Keeping United Church Beautiful

The Board of Trustees continues to work on refurbishments and repairs around our beloved church building and our manse. Necessary repairs to our roofs and gutters will be underway shortly and the steps to the church entrances will also be repaired. We are currently working on a "to do" list of the many of the repairs needed. We will be tackling as many of these projects as our budgetary constraints allow and we will update you as we are able to move along.

If there is any project on this list that you would like to contribute to, by all means we would welcome any support you may offer.

Thank you.

Susan Oldis for your Board of Trustees

---

## News from the Sunday Night Club

Our 2009-10 year concluded successfully with our May 16th meeting. Our Sunday Night Club board will be working over the summer making plans for next year.

All church members, family and friends, whether single or married are invited to all our events. Anyone interested in joining our club in the Fall should contact the Barnett's @ 766.4856.

Have a wonderful summer!  
Pat Barnes & Stan Weiner



## United Church Nursery School News

The nursery school is celebrating spring and learning about the caterpillars and butterflies. Mrs. Meyer cares for the caterpillars each day and soon the children will be releasing the beautiful Painted Butterflies into their new world. We have had a year filled with fun activities.

Our fundraising events were successful and we are enjoying the new mulch other playground. Our most recent fundraiser was a "David's Cookie Dough" sale. We raised \$715.00 and donated the profits (\$715.00) to the Kendall Curnack who graduated from United NS a few years ago and is fighting Leukemia. We are very grateful to the families and staff of the NS who made this possible. Please keep this family in your prayers. IN addition, Mrs. Brennan led the four year-old classes in a "Trike-A-Thon" to teach our children about the importance of bicycle safety and giving to others less fortunate. The "Trike-A-Thon" raised money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital Research. The children loved this special activity and parents were extremely generous in their donations.

We are currently accepting names of church member's children who will attend the three year old program in 2011-2012.

Please call Providence Alfieri @766-5635.

---

## LICC

While some of us are on vacation, human needs never are! Please note this from the Long Island Council of Churches:

Food donations are needed at the Long Island Council of Churches' Emergency Food Pantries in Freeport (450 N. Main Street, 516-868-4989) and Riverhead (407 Osborne Avenue @ Lincoln, 631-727-2210), which are feeding 25% more people than last year—which was itself a record year. They particularly need canned meat, vegetables, tuna, low-sodium food, low-fat food, dietetic food, Ensure (and similar supplements), baby food, and infant formula (especially those with iron, such as Enfamil with LIPIL). Donations of toiletries, personal care items, and plastic or paper shopping bags also are welcome. We often distribute produce and other perishable food, too, but please call first before bringing these items to make sure we have room to store them. And please call before bringing clothes—we already have lots to give away.

Our Riverhead pantry particularly needs donations of canned vegetables this week.

The Freeport pantry also needs donations from a bakery or bagel shop, a freezer, copier, vacuum cleaner, small shopping carts, some comfortable chairs, and Spanish-speaking volunteers who are available anytime Monday through Friday between 11:00 and 4:00.

---

### BOARD of MISSIONS TOOLS OF HOPE

The right tool at the right time can make a world of difference in the lives of children and families faced with an emergency or struggling to keep food on the table.

Here is how your money can help:

**Warm blankets** for five refugee children... \$25

**Wheelbarrow, hoe, shovel, and rake** for a rural family... \$57

**Nets and other equipment** for a village fishing cooperative... \$100

**Family shelter kit:** a family-sized tent, ground cloth, plastic sheeting, two poles, and four blankets... \$172

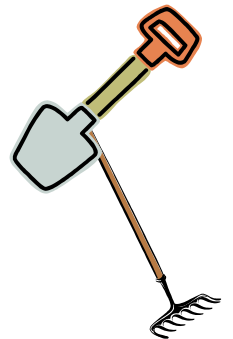
**Partial secondary school tuition** for an AIDS orphan or other vulnerable child... \$300

**Well pump, piping, and hardware** for a village water system... \$1,000

**Tools such as tents, bedding, plastic sheeting, and other emergency supplies in the wake of natural disasters and human calamities... Priceless!**

Father's Day is Sunday, June 20th and the Tools of Hope Father's Day Cards are available in the Narthex.

You will receive a mailer very soon as a reminder of this special offering, along with a donation envelope. The Church World Service provides tools and other resources to help the needy here and abroad. Please consider making a donation to this noble cause on Father's Day in Honor of a Special Father.



## One Thing You Can Do to Help Oceans: Use Reusable Plastic

Written by [Phil Kramer](#) Published on March 25th, 2010

After so many years as a marine scientist, **I'm no longer surprised at the [things that wash ashore](#)** on beaches around the world.

Unfortunately, **90 percent of those things are man-made and shouldn't be there.** Most of it has – unfortunately – come to be expected: derelict fishing equipment, disposable plastic bottles, plastic bags, cigarette butts, bits of unidentifiable plastic, Styrofoam. **All of it is deadly to marine animals** – whales, sharks, sea turtles and sea birds.

**Much of our trash seems to end up accumulating in large gyres in the Pacific Ocean.** The "[Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)" between Hawaii and California is the size of Texas and the biggest threat to nesting albatrosses and their chicks on remote atolls of the northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

[National Geographic](#) recently reported the discovery of the "Atlantic Garbage Patch." It covers 1,000 miles off the East Coast of the United States. **Much of the debris is tiny bits of discarded plastic and trash;** most of it weighs less than a paperclip and floats near the surface. Imagine what it must be like for a baby loggerhead sea turtle making his way out to the Atlantic and having to come up for air in that plastic soup.

**Sometimes when a problem seems so, well, global, we think there's nothing we can do.** But this is actually a problem where every individual's actions matter. So, good news: If you use plastic, you have the power to change the world in one easy step.

**Step 1: Stop using so much plastic.** Go with reusable shopping bags and drinking bottles, instead.

It's a simple matter of volume:

- Consider all of the people in your neighborhood who shop.
- Now consider what would happen if everyone committed to using reusable bags and drinking bottles.

Now think of everyone in your town, your city, your state, your country, your continent, your world — all of them doing what you're doing....**That is a tremendous amount of disposable plastic that never has the opportunity to escape and wreak havoc on marine life.**

All because people made a simple change to their daily lives. Our choices matter. Each of us has more power to affect our world — for good and for bad — than we know.

---

**Zen Meditation at the Manse**  
**\*Mondays @ 7:00am & 6pm**  
**Tuesdays and Fridays @ 7:00am**  
**Sunday Evenings at 7:30pm Zen Meditation and Dharma talk.**

---

## Nominating Committee Report 2010

<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>
<b>Moderator</b>	Kevin Oldis	2013
<b>Clerk</b>	Robert Powers	2011
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linda Volkert	2012
<b>Christian Education</b>	Jim Vierengel	2013
	Marcie Agee	2011
	Anna Barbara Churchill	2011
	Janet Matthews	2012
<b>Deacons</b>	Lois Carlsen	2013
	Carolyn Colville	2011
	Sue Hodge	2013
	Isabelle Ramsdell	2013
	Jane Reinert	2013
<b>Elders</b>	Jeanne Treccasi	2011
	Thomas Hodge	2011
	Dulcy Scoville	2012
<b>Missions</b>	Megan Asuncion	2011
	Beth Borzone	2013
	Leigh Latimer	2013
	Tiffany Williams	2011
<b>Trustees</b>	Susan Oldis	2013
	Brigitte Ermansons	2013
	Jerry Fernandez	2011
	Linda Volkert	2012
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	Marcie Agee	2012
	Susan Oldis	
	Jane Reinert	
<b>Board of CSR</b>	Howard Costa	2013
	Ming Ng	2012
	Pepper Robinson	2013

The Nominating Committee extends a grateful thank you to those who have willingly agreed to serve once again on the various committees.

Sincerely,

Marcie Agee, Chairperson, Nominating Committee

## Upcoming Schedule

### May

- 20 Christian Education meeting 7:45pm
- 24 Bible Study—Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)

### June

- 1 Church Council Meeting 7:30pm
- 2 & 9 Bible Study—Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)
- 13 Recognition Sunday  
A Congregational meeting following worship service to discuss people's reaction to the movie "The Bible Tells Me So". This movie was shown in response to a request to be reminded of what it means for us to be an Open and Affirming Church.
- 19 Church Council Retreat, June 19, 8a.m.-2 p.m. Planning the Goals and Calendar for the coming year!
- 23 A Panel of Lesbian and Gay Couples Discuss the meaning of Marriage Equality @ 7:30 p.m. in Rickert Hall. This is open to the public.

## Souper Group



The "Souper Group" will not be meeting over the next few months, but will start "cooking" again in the Fall. Stay tuned for dates.

## Congratulations!

A big congratulations goes out to Courtney Imken for making the Oceanside High School honor roll.

## Thank You

Thank you to our gardening angels, Carolyn Colville and Dulcy Scoville for helping Tom Hodge with the Spring planting around the church grounds.

**United Church of Rockville Centre**  
430 Morris Avenue  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

