

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

December 2012

About a month ago, as Hurricane Sandy affected Long Island, we received a mandatory evacuation notice. My wife Hyeonjin and I went to the home of Eileen DiGiovanna to stay overnight. Electricity went out, but it was not a problem at all.

Day 2 without power: as we came back to the parsonage, we wanted to buy a portable gas stove, but they were sold out. We wished we could have a hot meal and soon realized that our parsonage had a gas stove, while my previous church in Connecticut had electric burners. That was a good reason to be thankful.

Day 3: Hyeonjin found we had hot running water at the parsonage. This was another reason to be thankful. I said to myself, "I will find at least one thing a day to be thankful for to God." Day 4: as we came home, we saw the houses across the parsonage with power. Hooray, we have power! But not really! We were disappointed, but it was not too bad: we still had hope in waiting for electricity.

Day 5, 6, 7, and 8: it had been painful to watch the houses across the parsonage with power, while we had no electricity. There was nothing to be thankful for! Day 9 and 10: We had another winter storm and it was cold. I could stand everything else, but it was very tough to get up at night to put some more fire woods in the fire place. Once you get up, it is hard to get back to sleep. Disappointed and even depressed!

Day 11: There seemed no hope in waiting for electricity. However, I realized how much I had been loved by you. More than 10 families invited Hyeonjin and me to their houses to have dinner, to take a hot shower, or to stay overnight. 2 of you brought a lot of fire woods to the parsonage. One of you was willing to lend a generator, and two of you were coming to the parsonage to install the generator on the possible 12th day. Yet, hallelujah, there was no day 12 without power. Finally, we had electricity at the parsonage on the 11th day.

In the season of Advent we Christians are also waiting with hope. What we are waiting for is not electricity but Jesus Christ, who was born two thousand years ago and who is coming again. Waiting is sometimes tedious, especially when we do not have confidence that it is coming soon. Waiting is sometimes difficult, especially when the person or electricity arrives later than we expect. However, when we have faith that it must come soon, our waiting can be exciting and joyous.

As waiting for Jesus, we should remember we are the church focused on community matters rather than individual matters. Through the storm I was very impressed by many of you who had worked together and helped each other, showing the sacrificial love. We could not overcome difficulties without one another. I pray that you and I will continue doing ministry harmoniously as the church family, and that we prepare ourselves faithfully for the coming of Jesus Christ during this season of Advent. Amen.

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Ladies will be having a Holiday Luncheon on Monday, December 3 at noon. Please bring a dish to pass and a gift for the Yankee Trader tree.

We will be collecting clean, metal 1 lb coffee cans for next year’s Craft Fair. (NO plastic or cardboard, please)

There will be no meeting in January or February. Christine Hoff 631-665-7237

MISSIONS

Missions committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations during the Fall/Thanksgiving food drive. Your generous donations go a long way to help the Bay Shore Food Pantry continue to serve our neighbors in need. You can always donate non perishable food items at any time of the year. Please leave your donation at the back of the pews. Missions would also like to thank the congregation for the successful pot luck luncheon. The food was plentiful and delicious. Thank you for your continuous support.

Vida Owusu, Missions

CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS

The beautiful Christmas Poinsettias, which decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve have a dual purpose: Not only do they symbolize the birth of Jesus; they also enable us to share this joyous spirit with the sick and shut-ins among our church family. If you would like to provide flowers for these purposes, please fill out the form below and give it to Flaye Stahl or leave it at the church office. You may also call the church office at 666-7194 to order your plant. (Please Print)

NAME OF DONOR: _____

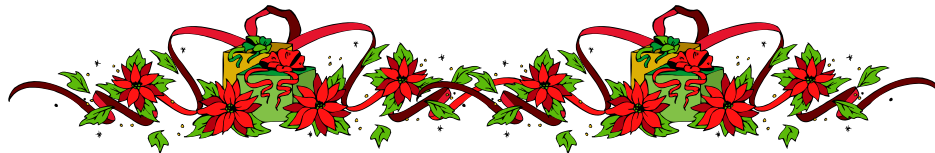
DONATED: ____ To the glory of God

____ In memory of: _____

____ In honor of: _____

____ I will take my plant after Christmas

____ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in



CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

Instead of sending cards to your church friends, you can participate in the Church Card that is mailed to all our members. Just submit your name, the way you want it to appear, AND RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 2. The cost is \$3.00 Please print your name(s) exactly as you want them to appear.

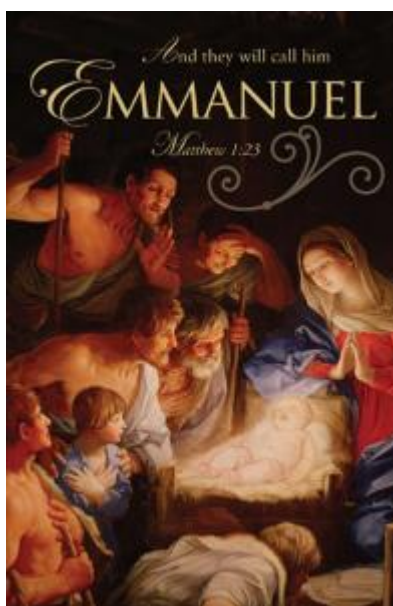
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Notes from the Music Director

Merry Christmas!

Please join us on Monday December 24th at 4:00pm for our “Lessons and Carols” family service, and at 11:00pm for our “Candlelight Service” with communion.



Chamber Choir Rehearses

Every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the School Building
No rehearsal on Thursday December 27th.

Youth Choir Rehearsals

Sunday December 2 nd -	4:00 pm. “Advent and Christmas Music Concert”
Sunday December 16 th -	11:15 am. – 12:00 pm. in the Sanctuary
Sunday December 23 rd -	11:15 am. – 12:00 pm. in the Sanctuary
Monday December 24 th -	4:00 pm. and 11:00 pm. Christmas Services

Penataquit Handbell Choir Rehearsals

Sunday December 2 nd -	4:00 pm. “Advent and Christmas Music Concert”
Sunday December 9 th -	11:15 am. – 12:15 pm. in the West Room
Sunday December 23 rd -	11:15 am. – 12:15 pm. in the Sanctuary
Monday December 24 th -	4:00 pm. and 11:00 pm. Christmas Services

Advent and Christmas Music Concert



Sunday December 2nd, at 4:00 PM, Bay Shore United Methodist Church will host an “Advent and Christmas Music Concert”. This concert will benefit the music ministry at UMCBS. Our Chamber Choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, along with soloists and instrumentalists, will perform music to usher in the Advent and Christmas seasons! Mark your calendars now. Tickets are \$10.00 each and on sale following worship services in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Ornaments for Church Family Tree



Please join our church family by bringing in an ornament to help decorate our church family tree in Fellowship Hall. You can bring in a homemade ornament or a store bought ornament. Be creative! Be sure to include your family name on it. We will hang it on our tree for all to see and share. Thank you all for your participation.

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