

THE MONTAUK WIND

"The Wind Blew Among the Bodies and They Came Back to Life!" Ezekial 37:10

November 2011

Volume IX Issue 4

Christmas is Coming



The traditional **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be held Sunday, December 18th during our regular service of worship. Eileen Devlin is working with the children from Sunday School to retell the story of the birth of our Lord.

The **Christmas Eve Service** will be merged into one family friendly service which will start at 7 pm. There will be carols, readings, candles, a homily, and communion. Tradition will be served and we will end the service with the singing of Silent Night.

This year **Christmas Day** falls on a Sunday. There will be a regular service that morning to celebrate. Consider finding an island of peace in the midst of a day of presents, excitement, and good eating.

Christmas Fair This Saturday, November 26.

The Christmas Fair is coming. Soon! We are collecting many wonderful gift certificates from local businesses and new items from our church friends for our exciting and fun Silent Auction. Donations will be accepted up to the time of the Fair. Bidding takes place from 9 am to 2:45 pm. Please try to be there at that time to see what you might have won and pick up your items.

As always, there will be handmade gifts and baked goods. You can add to the bounty by dropping baked goods at the church on Friday, November 25 or on Saturday morning. And this year, for the first time, the women's and men's clothing rooms will be open during regular rummage times, 9 am to 12 noon.

This fair is Montauk's own start to the Christmas shopping season, so come out and see what treasures you can find. And don't forget that Santa will arrive at 1 pm for photos and to listen to the children's requests and hand out candy. See you there!

The Montauk Wind

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A PARSONal Note:

As many of us prepare for the coming Advent and Christmas seasons with wonderful decorations, cards to friends and family, the pleasure of finding just the right gift, and the expectant preparation for homecomings, I offer a holiday charge and benediction:

May you come to a deepening understanding of your own need and dependence upon God and, in so doing, deepen your awareness of the needs of others;
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

May you allow yourself and others to acknowledge those who are absent from the Christmas table this year, and find healing in the midst of grief;
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

May your heart be humble, your spirit gentle, and your life a visible renunciation of retribution as a response to hurts and threats;
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

May your heart be troubled by the inequities and injustices you see around you, that it may lead you, not to the complicity of silence, but to courageous advocacy which breaks down walls and changes things;
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

May you both seek and offer forgiveness, that you may know reconciliation in the relationships that matter most;
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

May you hunger to have the person that you *are* more closely resemble the person that you *want to be*, and may you completely trust to God that work of transformation;
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

May you be a fool for Christ, daring to present an alternative vision to the world’s way of violence, and may you do the hard work of reconciliation among the hostility of families, neighbors, communities, and nations;
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”

May you find strength and peace when you find yourself bearing the cost of living your faith;
*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

*“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others,
so that they may see Christ at work in you and give glory to God in heaven.”*

A blessed Christmas to you all,

Bill

News from the Sunday School

by Noelle Hear

In Sunday School, Edie and Daz helped us paint brown paper bags, next week we will fill them with food donations for the food pantry. There are a lot of people who don't have Thanksgiving dinners and we would like to help them.

Eileen and Shana Devlin came in and helped us sing songs that are going to be in the Christmas pageant. They talked a little bit about the parts in the play, and talked about the importance of attending Sunday School.

**The Children's Pageant
will be during Sunday
service on December 18
and will star our Sunday
school students.**



Advent Begins!

by Bill Hoffmann

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 27, and with it, the start of a new liturgical year. Though the culture around us will have already been celebrating the secular Christmas for several days (if not weeks!) by then, for Christians, Advent is not Christmas. It is a season of its own...a season of expectant waiting, of longing, of preparing one's heart for the coming One. The tone and tenor of Advent is one of hope-filled anticipation...of sitting on the edge of one's seat, knowing that something wonderful is just up the road.

And so, the scriptures we listen to during Advent include the promise of the prophets of God's future for God's people. The gospel lessons speak, not only of a coming birth, but of the coming return of the One once born in a manger. The wreath

symbolically moves us into the ever increasing light of Christ's presence as an additional candle is lit each Sunday. And yes, even the sometimes frustrating and impatient waiting for the singing of Christmas hymns in the sanctuary when we've been hearing them for weeks in the mall remind us that God has yet more for us ahead.

Advent is a season that looks as much beyond Christmas as it does towards it. It is a time of openness to the in-breaking presence of Christ into our lives and our world in our time. Late November through late December are never simply a time of remembering a wonderful old story. It is a season of looking forward to what God is yet to do. So, it is with both longing and excitement that we sing our Advent song: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus..."

Nominating Committee Report

by Nancy Pfund

We will gather after worship on December 11th to elect lay leaders to serve our church in the coming years. So grab a quick bite and join us in the sanctuary for this important church business. We will choose two deacons, three elders, and three members-at-large for next year's nominating committee. The Nominating Committee puts forth the following names. There will be an opportunity to nominate people from the floor at the meeting as well. Those positions to be elected by the congregation are bolded.

Deacons:

Kathy Havlik to retain her seat.
Lydia Shaternik to fill Jean Masin's seat.

Session:

George Hear to retain his seat.
Loretta Sullivan to retain her seat.
Susan Raymond to fill Mayela Vargas's seat.

Nominating Committee:

Joe Nye to retain his position
Rick White to fill Vickie Mendelson's position
Jean Masin to fill Susan Raymond's position
Nancy Pfund to remain as committee chair - chosen by Session
Mayela Vargas as the second elder - chosen by Session
Vickie Mendelson - chosen by the Choir
Ed Sullivan - chosen by the Deacons
Chris Herbert - chosen by the Women's Guild

Jean Masin and Mayela Vargas are getting a deserved break after serving two three year terms. In the Presbyterian Church, we have term limits—a good break for our leaders and a way to bring new voices to the leadership circle. We thank both Jean and Mayela for their dedicated service for the last six years.

The Nominating Committee of 2011 met weekly from October 2 through October 30th and presented Session with a full slate of officers, Class of 2014 and nominees to the Nominating Committee, Class of 2012. Session dismissed the current committee from active duty and thanked them for their service.

Church Committees

The Nominating Committee has finished its work for the year; Elders, Deacons, and Nominating committee members have been chosen. There are many other ways to serve the church. We have six different committees that you could join as a member: Building,

Christian Education, Membership, Mission, Stewardship/Fundraising, and Worship. Join one of these committees, help out, and learn more about the functioning of the church at the same time.

Membership Committee Needs Your Help

Committee members have been busy gathering and correcting addresses and phone numbers of church members and friends for the new 2012 Church Directory. Sadly, we've discovered there have been changes to the mailing and physical addresses and the phone numbers we have on record, so we really need your help in getting them right! Don't want to be left out? We urge you to please fill out and return the church letter that will be asking for church related information. Also if you are a friend of the church and want to be notified of events, receive The Montauk Wind (this newsletter), etc., please call either the church (668-2022), Nancy Pfund (668-2762), Jean Ruggles (668-2747), or Susan Raymond (668-3432). Don't miss out on any holiday events. Thanking you in advance for helping make the 2012 Directory as free as possible from errors, and just as important, making it useful to all of our church family in the days to come.

Blessings to all, Membership Committee members

Building Committee Report

The committee has been dealing with an unexpected problem which started in October. Water appeared to be coming up out of the ground under the rear parking lot. Investigation by Keith Grimes and Suffolk Water Authority determined that the original pipe from the water main to the Church had ruptured. After consideration of alternative methods of repair, the committee had a new pipe bored underground from the main to the boiler room and the old pipe abandoned. We then realized that water was no longer entering the Christian Education Building. Further investigation showed that when the new building was constructed, the water was tapped from the original water pipe. After more investigation, we contracted with Marshall's Plumbing to run a new water line inside the building to service the Christian Education Building.

Water woes are not yet over, however. For the past year or so, there has been water flowing from an area south of the Manse lawn, which caused ice to form in ice forming in neighboring driveways last winter. This water has been tested by SCWA, and it looks like it is groundwater which may come from an old, perhaps, collapsed catch-basin. There will be further investigation to solve this dilemma.

The good news is that the cottage, just east of the church, which belongs to us and is rented to a lovely family, has received a new bathroom. This replaces a very old, ill-functioning bathroom that the family has lived with for several years. Prism Construction replaced wiring, plumbing, pipes and fixtures, and the cottage is in good repair again.

When the water situation is under control, the committee will begin work on the lower level of the Church building, with plans for major construction. More information will be forthcoming.

We wish to thank Rev. Bill Hoffmann, who began his ministry with us just as the water problem became a reality: he has been an invaluable source of insight, when we needed it.

Respectfully submitted, Iris Mitchell, George Hear, Karen Rade

A Hand For the Deacons

by Susan Raymond

Our Deacons are a wonderful group with a ministry of welcome and attention to the needs of the congregation, particularly those in ill-health or distress. There are two mundane tasks they take on that come up week after week: ushering and coffee hour. Now, it is not necessary to be a Deacon to serve as an usher or to host coffee hour, but most weeks, it is that same group that does these jobs. Because I sing with the choir, I cannot volunteer to help them out, except in the summer. Every August, I try to sign up to do each job once. What I find is, it is very

easy work. I make certain I sign up with a deacon, because they know what they are doing and give good guidance. And they are nice and friendly. To be honest, they do most of the work. But when I help out by handing out bulletins, or pouring coffee, I am freeing up someone who has served often to sit in the pews during the service, or mingle and chat afterward. Maybe you could help out once a year and give someone a rest. It really is easy and it gives one a slightly different perspective.

Stewardship

This newsletter is coming together just as we celebrate Consecration Sunday, the day when we formally acknowledge the joy of sharing our abundance. Though pledges may come in at any time, and not all who give pledge beforehand, this is a moment to acknowledge that what we have is a gift from the divine and deserves to be shared. It is a chance to pool resources and together build a strong community of faith for all who come through our doors. So if you haven't already done so, think carefully about what portion you want to offer.

Trip To Cuba, 2012

Plans are underway for the 2012 trip from the East End of Long Island to visit our sister church in Guines, Cuba. The group, led once again by Barbara D'Andrea, will travel in early March for a week or so in Guines at the church and three days in Havana in a hotel. The cost, including airfare will be approximately \$2,500. The plans are not firm yet, but if you think you would like to go, you should talk with Mayela Vargas because it takes some time to get the license from the Treasury Department. This is an eye-opening trip: Cuba is physically beautiful and economically backward and the people are hard workers who are good at improvising. They are also warm, good cooks and hosts, and full of love for God and his people.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Last year the Clericus of East Hampton held the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service at our Montauk Community Church. Everyone from our congregation who went said that it was an inspiring service. We heard pastors, rabbi and cantor read from their traditions of thankfulness to God. There were representatives of Islam and Native American tradition sharing the news of bounty and grace. This year the service will be on Sunday, November 20 at 4:00 pm at Springs Community Presbyterian Church. Reverend Bill Hoffmann (the new guy), will be giving the

by Susan Raymond

sermon. I and several others who had never been to one of these services before have agreed that we will travel this year. We want to share our faith in a different place, but we also want to experience the joy of seeing our local clergy in action together. We hope you will join us.

Directions to the Springs church: from the Montauk Highway west, turn right onto Abrahams Landing Rd. Turn left onto Old Stone Highway. The church will be on the right after .6 mi or so, just before you get to Springs Fireplace Rd.



Handel's Messiah

The Choral Society of the Hamptons is singing Handel's Messiah at this year's Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 4. There will be two performances, one at 3 pm and a second at 5:30. Four members of our choir are singing in the concert: Pat Cidlowski, Debbie Coen, Paul Melnyk, and Susan Raymond. Any one of them would be glad to sell you a ticket. The cost is \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door.

Christmas Joy Offering

Advent and Christmas shine a light on our world's greatest hope and also our world's greatest need. The Christmas Joy offering is an opportunity to support causes specifically designed to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Your gift lifts up those who have served faithfully and those who are growing into a faithful adulthood.

Prayer Group

by Edna Steck

On Wednesday mornings several of us have been coming together for prayer. With Rev. Hoffman as the leader and facilitator, it is a time of sharing and support of each other and exploring the nature and meaning of prayer and the various ways of communicating with God. We pray together, silently and vocally as we feel comfortable. It is a time of renewal of faith and reminder of

God's love for us and His grace. We leave with a strong sense of the presence of God in our lives and the bond we have with each other.

The prayer group meets on Wednesdays at 7 am in The Guild Room. All are welcome to come and share this special time of prayer.

Open House at the Manse

The Hoffmanns will host an open house at the manse during the regular Fellowship time on Sunday, December 4. After worship, all are invited to the manse for coffee and treats and the chance to see the wonderful work the Building Committee did prior to your new pastor's arrival. Bill, Val, and Anna are thrilled with the house and glad to show it off. It is their home while they are serving here in Montauk, but it remains your manse. Come and see!

Be a Hero

Our annual Blood Drive this year will be on Monday, December 12 from 2:15 to 8:15. Volunteers are needed to welcome the people coming to donate. If you can spare a two hour block or time, call the office at 668-2022 or speak to Mayela Vargas as she is coordinating the drive once again. The task is easy and convivial. And please consider giving blood yourself. Supplies are often low at this time of year. Your donation can save a life. So put on your ipod if you like, and roll up your sleeves. The reward is intangible.

Bible Study

After mingling and noshing in the Guild Room during coffee hour in October, a group would gather in the sanctuary to discuss the book of Ruth. There were four weeks of discussion to match the four chapters in the book. Rev. Hoffmann led the discussion, offering information about the times, the language of the text and insight. Participants noticed the poetry, asked questions about meaning, and enjoyed the great story telling of this book. Those who participated look forward to the next study. Time and text are yet to be determined—if you are interested in a different time, let Bill know what would be good for you.



We love letters! Snail mail, email, note cards, postcards, pieces of scrap paper with penciled notes, we are glad to publish them all. Suggestions, complaints, kudos, hellos from afar—all are warmly welcomed. Send them to the church (PO Box 698 Montauk, NY 11954), put them in the box in the office, send email to themontaukwind@gmail.com, hand them to Rev. Hoffmann or Susan Raymond. If you live away and send a note to Nancy Pfund, it is likely to find it's way here.

From the Editor

by Susan Raymond

Wow! We needed 10 pages to get everything in. Contributors were great about getting articles submitted on time. A request was made for something from the Sunday School, and the next day, I had a lovely submission from Noelle Hear (page 3). We are going to try for regular reporting from the children—I know we are all interested in hearing what they are thinking and responding to.

We have a new minister, and so we have some change in the layout of the newsletter. I'm guessing that you didn't notice we are using a new type face, but I do hope you thought it was more readable. I am learning some about layout and trying to focus more on appearance, and I hope that is apparent. And now I have moved my column to the last page of news. Rev. Bill suggested we put news on the front page and move his

column inside. He didn't tell me where to put it, but I thought you shouldn't have to look hard to find it. I think of the editor's column as coming as an introduction, but really it is usually somewhere near the masthead, and our masthead is on the back page. So here it is with the letters. Or where we put the letters when we have them.

I served on the nominating committee this year, and at our first meeting, Bill talked about the opportunity to serve the church by serving on a committee. There are many, and you can find them listed on page 4. I urge you to consider where you might have something to offer. The newsletter isn't listed in that group, but if you would like to write, draw, or plan for it, I would be grateful. Perhaps you would even like to edit an issue. I am happy to share the job.

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Address Correction Requested

The Montauk Wind is a newsletter of the Montauk Community Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Vice President: Aster Stein
Treasurer: Christine Herbert

Session

Class of 2012
George Hear
Loretta Sullivan
Mayela Vargas
Class of 2013
Gail Murphy
Edna Steck
Class of 2014
Iris Mitchell
Nancy Pfund
Karen Rade
Gail Webb

Board of Deacons
Class of 2012
Kathy Havlik
Jean Masin, Moderator
Class of 2013
Christine Herbert, co-mod
Jean Ruggles
Igor Solano
Class of 2014
Donna Etzel
Linda Norris
Ed Sullivan
Daz Winter

Vision Statement

We envision the Montauk Presbyterian Community Church as a Christ-centered congregation serving the spiritual needs of those who live and visit our hamlet at the eastern tip of Long Island. We are the Church on the Hill, nourished by the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament. We will focus on the formation of disciples and ministry with and among our community to be a spiritual beacon for those who gather on our shores. We will honor our name by remembering that we are a church that embraces a variety of styles, reflecting worship traditions that were brought here by our members from other places. We will continue to welcome those who bring new ideas as we bear in mind our past and the rich history we treasure.

Holiday Calendar

Sunday, November 20: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 4 pm at
Springs Community Presbyterian Church

Saturday, November 26: Christmas Fair from 9am to 3 pm

Sunday, November 27: We celebrate the start of Advent

Monday, December 12: Blood Drive from 2:30pm to 8 pm

Sunday, December 18: Children's Pageant and
Christmas Joy collection at 10 am Service

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Morning Service at 10 am