

# The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ  
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June 2011

Greetings, Church,

The living-on-less challenges many of you took on during Lent may be but a faint memory for some of you by now. Others of you, however, may be having some success at the new practices you began back in March. Are any of you are finding that the promises you made to yourself are a harder to sustain now that the energy of the Lenten soup supper programs and the Easter celebrations have begun to fade?

You may feel like you are back to slogging through the 'mud' of familiar routines that tend to die hard . . . The height of spring *is* passed, after all, and it **is** raining a whole lot! Perhaps it is as much a metaphor as it is a weather report to call this time of the year, "mud season." You attempt to take a step in a new direction and that sloshy, gooey stuff of the wounds in your heart and the ways you have always done things stick to the soles of your good intentions, get caked onto your will power – which is finite even on your best days – and the new groove you are trying to create gives way to the worn path of least resistance.

If that describes your experience, you are probably not alone. It is usually much easier for most of us to cooperate with God while still in the afterglow of the 'high holy days.' But now what do you do?

In an *OMN* article I wrote about a year ago, I offered one answer to that question. This trek isn't so much about finding or making a well-groomed path without roots or stones or briars. Those muddy old boots you may be still wearing are likely to trip over some sort of obstacle. That's part and parcel of being human. Neither is this journey about striving to arrive at a destination called 'perfection.' It **is**, my friends, about *practice* – faithful, authentic, persistent practice. If you practice God's new way consistently enough, your old way of being and doing will be made new! That's one way to articulate the Easter promise.

Here is another answer to that 'now-what' question: remember that you do not have to hold on forever in this 'mud season' without some sun and refreshment. In the first place, you do not walk alone. Many others in this pilgrim band following the Way of Jesus are doing just what you are doing; you offer aid and nourishment to each other. From a recent Chancel Choir anthem comes this comforting reminder:

We are pilgrims on a journey; we are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

In the second place, there is always another 'high holy day' just around the bend. The truth is that you awake to one every day. Even if the circumstances in your life are not lined up as sweetly as you wish they were, it is still a day that God has made and will make new in you when you show up with expectancy and gratitude! Imagine also coming to worship with that honest hunger and hope for God's new thing to be manifest in you . . . How might such an approach transform your Sunday morning worship experience?

Keep in mind that Christmas and Easter are not the only festival days this church celebrates. Pentecost is just around the corner on June 12. It is the day in the church year we risk inviting and welcoming the Holy Spirit into Mt. Sinai church, into our own hearts and into each one of the youth who will be confirmed that day. So, to help move yourself through the mud seasons of your soul, I offer you a Pentecost practice: take a minute every day and pray this simple prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, come! Change me. Change my heart and my mind. Change me into the likeness of you. Come! Make me, make *us* new!

Can you fathom it? Imagine the Wind! The Fire! The Breath and wholeness! Mt. Sinai Church will never be the same! **That** is God's Pentecost promise! Live it - - one step at a time . . .

Rev. Elaine

**From our Records...****Baptisms**

May 8th- Kate Amanda Swenson was baptized into the church, her parents are Kathleen and Scott Swenson.

May 15<sup>th</sup>- Sydney Kay Aubrey Laura Mayner was baptized into the church her parents are Brian and Jessica Mayhew.

May 29<sup>th</sup> Noa Faith Diamond was baptized into the church her mother is Cherie Diamond.

**Memorial Service**

On May 14th we held a memorial service for Mary Baade, a beloved member of our congregation. Over the years Mary was active in our Chancel Choir and several boards.

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## **Worship With us!**

9:00am & 11:00am service- June 5<sup>th</sup> and 12th

9:00 am Church Service and Sunday School

Children stay in church through the children's sermon.

Communion Services

Held on the first Sunday of every month. Sensitive to people with food allergies, we offer gluten free wafers in addition to bread. Out of respect for those who cannot drink alcohol, we use grape juice for the blessed cup of Communion. Everyone is welcome to the communion table.

**June 19<sup>th</sup> kicks off our summer schedule** (one worship service at 10am) with our Music Ministry Sunday, followed by a reception celebrating the wedding of Rev. Elaine Kirkland and Ms. Lisa Lally.

### **Safety Alert**

**Recently there has been break-ins to cars in local parking lots.  
Please remember to lock your doors and not leave any valuables in your car.**

### **MEET, GREET, AND LEARN FROM PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER LOKI TOBIN**

Thursday- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, 7pm (meet & greet 6:30) everyone welcome.

We will be meeting downstairs in the "Big Room" (where our Sunday School is held).

Many young Americans are fascinated with the concept of serving in the Peace Corps. Loki has already served for two years, and has extended her service for another year. Most of us are unaware of the Caucasus region where she serves but it has been a high conflict zone for many years (Armenia/Kurdistan/ Turkey/ Azerbaijan is Muslim country that borders Iraq to the south. Loki's work with youth development and women's groups has been a very challenging assignment.

### From the Generosity Corner

How is life going for you lately? If things could be better financially, perhaps worries or concerns are blocking your perception of God's generosity, which is ever flowing even when we do not perceive it. Consider the following quotes from *The Generosity Ladder, Your Next Step to Financial Peace*, by NYC pastor Nelson Searcy.

"You were born with an innate spirit of ever-increasing generosity, as much as ... baby birds were born with an innate sense of flight. You were born to live a generous life. ... When you and I discover how to live generously, we are free to soar into the life of blessing God wants us to live."

"One of the easiest traps to fall into is to tell yourself you will give more when you have more. That's just not true. Unless you learn to be generous with the resources in your life right now—no matter how meager they seem—you will not be generous with your resources later on. God doesn't give us increase so that we can be more comfortable or advance our lifestyle. God gives us more so that we can give more. We are the conduits."

Now on to a practical, housekeeping matter: Are you up to date with your pledge to Mt. Sinai? If not, a way to get back on track is to determine your current shortfall and recalculate your weekly or monthly giving to bring yourself in line with your original plan. Please do not procrastinate on this—our congregational goals and mission are at stake! If you have forgotten the amount you pledged, perhaps you still have the wallet card that was sent acknowledging your pledge, which was recorded on the back of the card. Pledges are private here at Mt. Sinai, so if you need a reminder of the amount, please send a note to the Chair of the Generosity Team or the Treasurer, by way of the offering plate or the church office. (Not even our pastors are privy to pledge details.) And if you typically skip a few Sundays in summer due to travels and summertime fun, don't forget to send your pledge before you leave home. Better yet, contact your bank to set up scheduled payments (there is usually no charge for this) so you never again fall behind. All you need is the address of the church so the bank can send your checks for you: 233 N. Country Rd., Mt. Sinai, NY 11789

### Dream Fund Information....

A special meeting of the membership is planned for Sunday, June 19th at 11:00am in the Sanctuary to vote upon a resolution to create an endowment for our Church.

This endowment, which we will call the *Dream Fund*, is a long-term project, which will seek to raise funds through planned giving. The purpose of the Dream Fund will be to enhance the work of the Mount Sinai Congregational Church beyond the annual operating budget. Generally, Planned Giving involves gifts of assets, including bequests in wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, assignments of life insurance and transfers of other property, like cash, stocks, bonds and real estate.

The Dream Fund will help us build a legacy for our very special church. Please come to the meeting.

The Planned Giving Ministry: Rich Winkler, Chair, Lynn Jordan, Dennis Murphy, Kathy Robinson and Donna Rodman.

**Graduation Information Requested-** It has been the custom for the church to honor our graduates each June. If you have a graduate in your family would you kindly send information to the church office: Name, school, plans, and contact information (phone or e-mail).



**June 4<sup>th</sup>** we will be holding the sixth annual barn sale. The sale is held from 9am through 3pm.



### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are looking for something to do this summer, contact Tom Lyon at [lyonheifer@aol.com](mailto:lyonheifer@aol.com) for summer volunteer opportunities with Heifer and Hobbs community farm. Youth and adults are welcome to volunteer.

### From our Sunday School Coordinator- Ms. Caroline LaVopa...

Vacation Bible Camp will be the week of July 11<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-11am. There will be a showcase of what the children learned on Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The registration fee is \$40 per child. The theme is, *Shake it Up Café*- Where Kids Carry out God's Recipe. You can find the registration form on our Sunday School page, we will also have it posted on our website, where you can download and send in.

Keep in touch by visiting our Sunday School page on our website.

### Youth Group Schedule

June 2<sup>nd</sup>- Visit with Loki Tobin- Peace Corps

Volunteer

June 9<sup>th</sup> Youth Group end of year party.

### Mission Trip 2011

Check out our bulletin board in Voorhees Hall to learn more about our mission trip to the inner city of Philadelphia. We will be staying at Old First Reformed Church, UCC and take part in their Urban Work camps. We are leaving Monday July 25<sup>th</sup> and returning July 31<sup>st</sup>. In order to help fund the trip we are holding several fundraisers. Our goal is to raise \$3000. We want to thank the congregation who has been so supportive of our fundraising efforts.

### Fundraisers

**Bake Sale**- Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, Market Day- We request any of our wonderful bakers to help us by dropping off baked goods (and purchasing some).

**Comedy Club**- June 16- Showtime is 8:00pm, Donation of \$15.00. Doors open at 6:30pm, you are asked to arrive by 7:00pm. You need to purchase your tickets in advance, contact the church office for information.

**Bake Sale**- July 10<sup>th</sup> after 10am service

**Recycling Fundraiser**- Do you have cans and bottles you keep meaning to redeem (the ones you receive .05 for)? Donate your recyclable cans and bottles to contribute to our Mission Trip. You can drop off your redeemable cans and bottles at the side entrance (by kitchen) or if needed arrange a pick up by contacting Mary Larson at the office.

### How Families and Their Children Can Use the Parish Resource Center (PRC)

We have a nice selection of resources for children and families. We have Bible and seasonal storybooks, as well as storybooks with a spiritual emphasis. You're welcome to borrow any of our numerous videos/DVDs. The series we own include Nest Entertainment's *The Greatest Adventure Stories of the Bible*, *Story Keepers*, *Friends and Heroes*, *Veggie Tales* and others. We have a collection of seasonal video resources as well. If your child loves crafts, why not borrow one of our many books of Bible-based craft ideas? For tweens and teens, check out our Christian music CDs and DVDs. Our parenting resources include the *Parenting Your Teenager* DVD series as well as books to enrich your family life such as *Fantastic Family Nights*, *Family Time with God*, and *Little Visits with Jesus: Devotions for Families*.

You're welcome to borrow our resources for your personal use as long as you belong to a subscribing church. If you'd like to use the center's space for your personal reading and reflection time, we invite you to come and spend as much time as you like at the center. We're here for you if you'd like assistance in selecting resources or just want to chat.



**ADULT FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS ----- All are Welcome to Join Us!**

There has been an excellent response to the list of suggested events that is posted in the Voorhees Hall. As a result, some of the events have been scheduled through September. We are still looking for "helpers" for some of these events. If you are interested in assisting with any of the events, please call Patti Texeira at 445-2119, or simply sign your name on the list of activities to come.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DAY/DATES/TIMES</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ORGANIZERS</u>
JUNE	To be announced	Golf "Get Together"	Elaine Kirkland & Lisa Lally Dal & Steve Kittredge
JULY	Sat., July 16	Pool Side Party 1 - 5 pm	Margie & Bob Williams
AUGUST	Saturday, Aug. 20	Beach Party BBQ 1 - 5 pm	Nancy & Charlie West EJ Lopez, Ellen Benedetto
SEPTEMBER	Sunday, Sept. 18	Wine/Garden Party	Patrice & Jim Perreca
OCTOBER	To be announced	Note/Scavenger Hunt by car	
NOVEMBER	To be announced	Vanderbilt Museum	
DECEMBER	To be announced	Progressive Dinner	
JANUARY	To be announced	Square Dance	

**From Island Heart Food Pantry...**

Welcome Spring! Wow, along with the change in seasons, comes some updates and improvements at the Pantry. With the help of many volunteers we were able to install insulation, walls, electric, heat and paint to the Shed. This will allow us to store more food, take in donations easily, without disruption to the Clients. We still need to get the floor installed, so if anyone is interested in helping, Please get in touch with me.

This month we received many donations including: Steve Little helping with electric, the Middle Island Rotary donated \$587.00 from their 50/50 at the Anniversary Dinner, the Atlantic Bus Company, Longwood Library, Paul Goldstein, Trader Joes and many donations from our Congregation.

Long Island started their Farmers Market again we were able to get a truckload of produce to distribute to our clients. This month Bob Maso went with me, next month Pam Busch will do the same. Which brings me to a huge request, by getting 15-20 people to volunteer 2-3 times a year would help us run the pantry more efficiently. Recently we were not able to accept two major drives because of this lack. Please help us by becoming part of the solution in the fight against hunger on Long Island.

Good News- we received a grant from the State which helped up with several items which will be put to good use when the pantry is done (hopefully) in June. I was asked to sit on the HPNAP Advisory Board for Long Island Cares, which will entail reviewing all grant applications and changes to the HPNAP process. I have accepted this volunteer position and will start on May 20th.

If you are out shopping and want to help, we always need: sauce, peanut butter, jelly, juice, toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, shampoo and soap.

Thank you all for your support, help and donations!!! Margaret Maso



**Open Mic Night- June 25<sup>th</sup>**

Time: 8:00pm-10pm (8:00pm-8:30pm, PG13)  
You are invited to come and read your writings, your favorite passage or poem, music etc... We are also looking for listeners to join us.



**Week ending-June 4<sup>th</sup>**

2	Thursday	Discussion with Loki Tobin- Peace Corps Volunteer	7:00pm
3	Friday	United Church of Christ NY Conference in Silver Bay- Friday through Sunday	
4	Saturday	Market Day	9:00am-3:00pm

**June 5<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup>**

5	Sunday	Remember the Joe Keany Walk/Run is this morning, and there are detours. Worship- Communion/Bible Graduation	9am
		Worship- Communion	11am
8	Wednesday	Lunch Bunch- Hartlins	12:00pm
		Caring Ministry	7:00pm
10	Friday	Office Closed	

**June 12<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

12	Sunday	Worship	9am
		Confirmation Sunday	11am
14	Tuesday	Trustees	7:00pm
15	Wednesday	Men's Breakfast- Rocky Point Diner	7:30am

**June 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**

19	Sunday	Go to one service	10:00am
		Music Ministry Sunday	10:00am
		Reception for Rev. Elaine Kirkland and Ms. Lisa Lally	11:00am
		Dream Fund Meeting	11:00am
20	Monday	Board of Christian Education Meeting	7:00pm
		Crop Walk Meeting	7:00pm
21	Tuesday	Deacons	7:00pm
25	Saturday	Open Mic Night (Poetry Reading) in Voorhees Hall	8:00-10:00pm

**June 26<sup>th</sup>- July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

26	Sunday	Worship	10am
28	Tuesday	Executive Council	7:00pm
29	Wednesday	Men's Breakfast- Rocky Point Diner	7:30am



Registration Fee: \$40 per child

**Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs/Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a special friend your child would like to be with \_\_\_\_\_

Class/Crew assignment (assigned by Church) \_\_\_\_\_

There is a waiver form which will also need to be filled out, it can be found on the website or picked up from Ms. Caroline after Sunday School.