

SCARBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

www.scarboroughchurch.org

Articles Invited from Members & Friends

October 2008

Rev. Timothy Ives, Pastor
Mr. Kenneth Potter, Choir Director & Organist
Mrs. Barbara Devir, Commissioned Lay Pastor
Ms. Florence Fletcher, Office Administrator
Ms. Katya Montelbano, Director Children's Center

P.O. Box 8835, Scarborough, N.Y. 10510
Church (914)941-1142; Fax (914)944-0027
e-mail: office@scarboroughchurch.org
SPChildren's Center (914)941-0025
SPCC e-mail: spchildrenscenter@yahoo.com

WORSHIP CALENDAR

10:30am Worship

Communion 1st Sunday of the Month.
Childcare provided for 1st grade + younger

- Sept 28 **God the Bouncer**
Matthew 21:23-32
- Oct. 4th **RUMMAGE SALE 9am-3pm**
- Oct. 5 **The Gospel In a Story**
Communion
Matthew 21:33-46
- Oct. 9 **Pictures for Directory 3-9:30pm**
- Oct. 12 Guest Preacher Sim Gardner
- Oct. 19
5pm Guest Preacher Riccardo Sheppard
SPC/SPCC Halloween Party
- Oct. 26 **Just A Promise**
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Luncheon for New Members
- Nov. 1 (Daylight Savings-turn clocks back 1 hour)
- Nov. 2 **The Greatest Among You**
Matthew 23:1-12
New Members Reception

SAVE THE DATES

- Nov. 15th **Leadership Retreat 9-11 am**
- Nov. 23st **Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**

From the Pastor's Pen....

Thanks

Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude.
-Denis Waitely

Initially, I was not happy that an installation was mandatory. It seemed redundant to me. Just one more of those events that was not so needed. I of course had started here last April. Six months later is a long time after my arrival to commemorate my arrival. I did put it off as if it might go away, but it didn't, and so this summer I started making plans. I called my friend Jeff and he agreed to travel out here to preach at my installation. I had to find any number of other people that I had to inconvenience on a Sunday afternoon in September. There have to be a certain number of elders and clergy who have to participate. I contacted them all and everyone seemed, surprisingly, happy to want to come.

There was also a lot of talk about making the reception happen. Karin Chaudhari immediately was talking about it with the Congregational Life Committee. Many others in the congregation started making plans. This, too, made me uneasy. I wasn't sure this was a good use of people's energy. So the summer went by and plans were put into place. The Scarborough Singers came forward, Ed Croft agreed to sing and Ken Potter was happy just to make it work, however that happened. Everything seemed to be coming together well and I began to think that it would be relatively painless. Then I heard the weather report. Ninety degrees for a long service on a Sunday afternoon? This could be nothing but dreadful. All those feelings of regret for putting so many people through so much for something that was really superfluous (or so I thought) seemed wrong. I was a bit anxious as the hour grew near. I kept hoping that the weather report would miraculously change.

When I walked the participants into the sanctuary and saw so many people and felt how very warm it was I thought "I hope no one faints." However, as soon as Ed Croft and the choir started to sing, the

NEWS FROM THE
**SCARBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN
CHILDREN'S CENTER**

spirit of Christ filled the place and it was not unbearable, at least for me, at all. The service was so filled with that spirit that I knew it was so very important and so very worth it. I was amazed at the gusto with which we all sang the hymns. I was pleased at how the service came together and just seemed so very right. I was appreciative that the words from my friend Jeff were just right. And the reception though a blur in my mind was such fun. It was really perfect for me and I hope for us. I humbly want to thank the church and everyone who helped put the event together. Especially I want to say thank you to Karin and the CLC for all their planning and work; everyone who pitched in to make it possible; special thanks to Connie Curran for asking the constitutional question and Ed Payne for an inspiring charge to the congregation; to the Scarborough Singers, the SPC choir, Ed Croft and Ken Potter. It really was a wonderful event and I am again very, very grateful to everyone at SPC for making the day possible.

Welcome to the 2008 - 2009 School Year at SPCC. We are so happy to report that our school year has started off beautifully! The children are adjusting to their new classrooms, teachers and classmates. It has been a relatively smooth transition for all our families. This year we have welcomed many new families and returning families to SPCC. Our program offerings have expanded, as have the class sizes to meet the needs of the community. We now have 62 families in our preschool program and 36 families in total in our Afternoon Enrichment classes. To meet these demands we have added to our staff. Please join us in welcoming Helen Langsam to Class 3B and Denise Scaglione as our Nursery School Office Assistant.

WORSHIP SUPPORT TEAMS

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Coffee Hour Host</u>
9/28	Connie Curran Jay Sutterlin	Patty Chapman	Sandy Beach Lucy Milne
10/5	Don Copans Beth Henriques	John Codman	Karen D'Attore Martha Dodge
10/12	Will Ingraham Lisa Pavlik	Amy Kitahata- Sporn	Caroline Cho Pia Chaudhari
10/19	Gene Croft Karin Chaudhari	Barbara Devir	Cory Ethridge Kim Schuster
10/26	Ed Payne Debbie Wenninger	Terri Zuckerberg	Carolyn Gates Jocelyn Fontana
11/2	Bob Pierce Lucy Milne	Tom Davis	Meegan Hammond Camille Lane
11/9	Joel Cambron Bonnie B-Smith	Linnea Carnes	Lisa Pavlik Catherine Savell
11/16	Don Swartout Peter Chapman	Ed Payne	Lisa Cerny Nary Kim
11/23	Gene Croft Terri Zuckerberg	Will Ingraham	Annual Thanks- giving Dinner CLC
11/30	Jay Sutterlin Malcolm Kostechenko	Patty Chapman	Sandy Evans Danielle Reilly

Some of our upcoming themes in our preschool classes will include apples, fall, leaves, fire safety, pumpkins and Halloween. Our Afternoon Enrichment classes begin Tuesday, September 23rd. This year we will offer Science & Sensory Exploration, Sports & Games, and "Go Green" Recycled Art and Cooking. Classes are held Tuesday through Friday from 12:30 to 3:00pm.

We will once again have our annual SPC & SPCC Halloween Party in October. We hope many families can join us on Sunday, October 19th from 4:00pm to 5:30 for arts & crafts, games of chance, prizes and a lovely meal.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather. We are looking forward to a great school year together - learning, laughing and having fun!

Happy Fall!!

Katya Montelbano
Director SPCC

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9- Ken Vought
- 10- Kenneth Freitag
Brian Zuckerberg
- 12- John Wenninger
- 14- Isaiah Cambron
Giselle Kamanou
- 18- Chrissy Ek
- 22- Kathy Shaffren
- 26- Tommy Evans
- 29- Signe Seelinger



We need volunteers. If you are unable to serve on the assigned dates, please arrange for a substitute and/or call the office; you will receive a reminder call the week prior to your date of service. Guidesheets are posted at the Pastor's Study and Kitchenette. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to serve in this way.

WE ARE GATHERING INFORMATION FOR A NEW MEMBERSHIP COMPUTER PROGRAM, AND WANT TO MAKE SURE OUR INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN ONE FORM PER FAMILY TO THE OFFICE OR IN THE BOX ON THE TABLE IN THE CHAPEL.

Please let us know if we missed listing your birthday. Is there a special event or success (graduation, birth, engagement, new job, etc.) coming up or just past? We'd love to celebrate with you!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EVENTS NEWS FROM THE PEWS

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

*Address change for Samantha Ethridge- school year:
University Heights Box#213D, 90 University Heights,
Burlington, Vt. 05405
phone:(802)542-3109 cell:914-522-7503*

New e-mail for Cory: *coryethridg@gmail.com*

NEW MEMBERS LUNCHEON MEETING SUNDAY OCTOBER 26TH NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED SUNDAY NOVEMBER. 2ND

A number of friends have expressed a desire to unite in membership of SPC. If you have been thinking about it, please come to the luncheon after church on Sunday, October 26th. Those who decide to join will be received during worship on Sunday, November 2. Please call the office to RSVP.

MISSION & VISION

MIDNIGHT RUN

The next Midnight Run will be on *Friday, October 18*. Blankets, gently used men's clothing (especially jeans), sturdy shoes, lightweight jackets and new underwear (for men and women) are much needed items. If you have something to contribute, please leave it at the church office by noon on that date.

Thank you, always, for your help.

-Barbara Devir

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Once again we will be collecting calendars to give to our neighbors at Sing Sing. Many of us receive beautiful calendars, more than we need. Some of these neighbors never receive a letter or card, let alone a gift. What a wonderful way to make use of our bounty. If you have any calendars to contribute please leave them at the church office. Calendars may not contain advertising and cannot have spiral bindings.

Barbara Devir

PRISON MINISTRY

The Presbytery of Hudson River has a new employee, Ricardo Sheppard. Shep, as he prefers to be called, will be the Prison Partnership Coordinator, a position he assumed on September 2. He will be coordinating prison ministry activities in our Presbytery and seeking to expand opportunities for this mission. Shep will serve as a liaison to congregations and between congregations so that we may more effectively and extensively minister to our brothers and sisters behind bars. In our Presbytery, there are about 14,000 inmate neighbors and 14,000 members

of our churches. This is surely a figure to think about!

Shep, a former Marine, has extensive experience in the church. He is himself the son of two preachers. He currently serves as an assistant to the Pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Brooklyn, serving as youth and outreach minister. He resides, with his wife, in Ossining. Shep is a student, pursuing ministerial studies, at New York Theological Seminary.

On October 19, we will welcome him to the pulpit of Scarborough Church and learn more of his story and more of his plans for himself and for our church. Plan to be there as he leads worship with Tim and me.

*Barbara Devir
CLP*

THE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Each year almost every church goes through a process called "The Stewardship Campaign." It is a process that seems to be made necessary by the business of being church. It is the time we collect pledges from people so that we understand the amount of income for the church year and then we can responsibly work out a budget for the church. It is a prudent process for any church. That is important but the business side of the Stewardship Campaign often obscures the spiritual importance of the process.

Deciding if you are going to pledge to the church and what amount does not start with the idea of need. I believe your first consideration start with God and God's abundance for you and your life. It is worth taking some time to think of the ways that you have been blessed, and then you and God can decide what to give the church. Gratitude is what Stewardship is about. We have been given these lives and all our loves and blessings. It is a spiritual decision to decide how and what you will return to God through this church.

In that discussion with God I hope you will think about how this church has blessed you. And I hope that you will give generously. Beyond that I hope that you will spread the word about this church. If you have been blessed by this church please don't keep it a secret. Share it with friends or family so they too might take a chance and enter into this church. It is the way that God reaches out and touches those outside our walls. That too is a spiritual discipline that spreads the love that God can give.

I will be sending you a letter soon and pledge Sunday will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I hope you will be here.

Tim

YOUTH GROUP SENIOR HIGHS

All teens **grades 9-12** are invited to these **October events:**

Sunday October 5 The Blaze .. The Hudson Valley's biggest, most exciting, most electrifying Halloween event features more than 4,000 individually hand-carved, illuminated pumpkins! Meander through a riverside landscape and discover a breathtaking display: snakes, a giant spider web, an undersea aquarium, super-sized dinosaurs, even a colossal Stonehenge all made of pumpkins! There is limited space for this event. It will cost you \$5 and you must email Tim at tives4932@AOL.COM in order to get a spot. We meet at **7:30 PM Sunday October 5 at SPC**

Thursday October 16 Tired of the same old events? Come to **planning night** and get your ideas heard for Youth Group. That banana split pie throwing Bible Study night you have been asking for can become a reality! Meet at **BCC at 6:30 PM**

Thursday October 23 TBA Meet at **BCC at 6:30 PM**

JUNIOR HIGHS

Sunday, October 19 6:30pm Our first incredible, fantabul, and really cool meeting for grades 6-8. Come hear about the group, carve a pumpkin, sing a pumpkin carol, and eat pizza. What could be better than that!? Call Tim at church and let him know you will be there. 941-1142.

ADULT EDUCATION

LECTURE SERIES: has begun with Rev. Dr. Tim Ives' first lecture and discussion meeting on Sept. 26th on "The Second Death of Christ." This series looks at the diversity and tolerance that was part of the church in the first three centuries of existence. Then the series examines the change that came with the first Christian Emperor Constantine. The question is, "Did the resulting orthodoxy help or hurt the ministry of Christ?" Please come, ask questions and join the lively discussion to follow. The next two Friday evening meetings in the series are Oct. 24th and Dec. 5th at 7 p.m. Please contact the office at #941-1142 with any questions.

BIBLE STUDY: Rev. Tim continues weekly Bible study of the Sunday Lectionary Readings every Wednesday at 11 a.m. Come for discussion only or bring a bag lunch if you can stay a little longer. Please contact SPC's office at 941-1142 or Amy Kitahata-Sporn at amyks@optonline.net with any questions. Everyone is welcome to join at any time.

ADULT EDUCATION COURSE: Tom Davis and Joel Cambron are facilitating our Sunday 9:15 a.m. lecture and discussion course on Martin Luther: Gospel Law & Reformation in the Carriage House conference room before the 10:30 a.m. Sunday serv-

ice. We started at the beginning of the summer and are continuing with DVD viewing and discussion. Outlines of the study course are available in the office on the table outside the Administrator's office. Copies of transcripts of any of the lectures can also be obtained if requested. For more information contact Amy K-S at amyks@optonline.net .

DINNER & A MOVIE GROUP: Plans to meet twice this fall on Friday, Oct. 17th and Friday, Nov. 14th, at 6:30 p.m. to share potluck dinner, movie viewing and discussion. Mark your calendars and please contact Kathy Davis at #941-5537 with any movie preferences.

SPIRITUAL LIFE DINNERS: continue to meet every first and third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Dinner is provided by regular participants and all are welcome to come and share in the meal and conversation about our spiritual journeys any time. For more information please contact Karin Chaudhari at #941-5736 or Amy at amyks@optonline.net. The fall schedule is: Oct. 2nd & 16th, Nov. 6th & 20th, Dec. 4th & 18th.

THE SPC LENDING LIBRARY: is open and located between the Sanctuary and Chapel in The Pastor's Study. Please feel free to sign out & in any books on the shelves stamped "Scarborough Presbyterian Church."

Fall Lecture Series at St. Theresa's Church

7:30pm Free admission and Open to the public
Mon., Oct. 6 Obama vs McCain: A Debate

Paul Baumann and David Carlin

Thurs., Oct. 16 Race, Religion, Politics

Speaker: Mark Noll & Book signing

Mon., Nov. 10th The Spiritual Life of Dorothy Day

Speaker: Robert Ellsberg

Tues. Dec. 2 A Poet on Poetry

Speaker: Sam Hazo

Thoughts on: A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose

by Eckhart Tolle

I am writing in hopes of sharing some of the concepts I found illuminating in Eckhart Tolle's book A New Earth. I am not a religious scholar and therefore am not trying to critique, summarize or put this book into historical perspective. I just thought I'd share some thoughts with you. I have been exchanging ideas with others and will include some of those responses in the November and December Newsletters.

To give you a little background on my perspective I have studied and practiced music, dance, The Alexander Technique, Authentic Movement and meditation at different times in my life. The most significant moments in my life have been through experiences that brought together my awareness of mind and body in the present moment and some of these experiences have felt transcendent. These moments have in common a feeling of quiet centeredness as well as a heightened awareness of my surroundings

and consciousness without thought. I feel a connectedness between myself and others or between myself and something other than me while playing music, dancing, moving, teaching or meditating. I also feel an acute sense of awe, love and appreciation of life. I believe this feeling of connectedness with a larger energy that surrounds me and moves through me is a connection with God.

When I read Eckhart Tolle's book A New Earth I felt resonances with the experience he is trying to point to, but is impossible to describe. Any experience we have cannot be recreated by describing it or writing about it. You can give examples and point the way towards the experience, but the listener or reader is not actually having the experience but instead is getting some idea of what that experience might be like. Unlike some theology which can be articulated with words, Tolle writes that his experience cannot be understood by the mind and thus cannot be articulated; this experience is beyond comprehension. With this in mind....

Eckhart Tolle writes a new awareness is arising in people in the world at this time. He believes that this awareness has been pointed to by many religions in the past. People are now recognizing the common factors in many religions which are present in this new consciousness and therefore do not have to identify with a particular religion to understand or experience it. Different religions allow us to explore these concepts in the context of our lives through stories, parables, teachings, and laws all meant to point us to the truth of our essence. Is it possible that the evolution of human consciousness is the development of this awareness of the truth of who we really are?

Who are we and why are we here? This emerging consciousness is the awareness that the essence of our being is not our thoughts, feelings and the physical form we and the world take, but instead the background awareness of all these things. It is the witness to all our parts: our bodies, our thoughts, our emotions. We are not in essence our body, but the observer of our body's sensations and the information received through the senses. If we identify who we are with our body then everything that happens to the body becomes who we are. We are not in essence our thoughts because thoughts can often be spontaneous, repetitive and conditioned by past experience. We can watch our thoughts through conscious awareness as they come and go. If we identify with our thoughts we believe that we are our thoughts. We are not in essence our emotions which can be reactions to the body's sensations or the mind's thoughts and often rely on patterning from earlier life experience. If we identify with our emotions, then we believe our emotions are who we are. All these aspects interact with each other. Emotions can activate thoughts.

Thoughts can activate bodily sensations. Bodily sensations may illicit specific emotions. But are we in essence this chain reaction of events or are we the conscious awareness that observes the chain reaction?

I believe we are in essence "witness consciousness."

How do we decide what to do in our lives? There has to be an arbitrator between our parts who makes the decision to act or not. What does this arbitrator base its decisions on? Before realizing we are not our bodies, minds or emotions the arbitrator is our ego - the identity we have created and who we believe we are before we become consciously aware of our essence. The "I" or the "me" is our ego. When the arbitrator becomes conscious awareness, there is a realization that we are not identified with our bodies, thoughts, and emotions and therefore the ego is no longer functioning as sole arbitrator. This identification with the ego is so strong and hinders our self realization, that Tolle spends a large part of the book looking at the ego and how it functions.

I believe the ego serves a valuable purpose for us all as we grow and develop as human beings. But gradually I think we realize that who we are in essence is not the roles we play (parent, child, sibling, friend, etc.) or the jobs we do (teacher, attorney, doctor, home manager, parent, etc.) or even the thoughts we think (philosophies change, attitudes change, more knowledge or experience revises what we have thought to be true, etc.) or the body we have (athlete, dancer, musician, or physical characteristics which change with time). We are something more.

Then who are we? We are the consciousness that arises when we stop identifying with our bodies, minds and emotions, and the ego persona we have created while in human form. We are the witness to our existence in this form. Eckhart Tolle goes on to say that all forms manifest this essence and that by paying attention to the present moment there comes a realization that our essence, the essence of others and the essence of all things is one and the same, comes from the same source and returns to the same source. To me this is like saying we come from God, God is in us and we return to God. Eckhart Tolle also postulates that once we find our connection to God we realize that God is love. So while we exist in this particular form at this moment in time, once we realize who we are in essence we will be changed by this understanding. If our essence is God and God is love then to be compassionate towards ourselves, others and the world around is our purpose. Eckhart Tolle says that we exist for this consciousness to arise in us. Why do you think we exist?

*In peace & love, Amy Kitahata-Sporn
with many thanks to Ken Vought, Pia
& Karin Chaudhari. A New Earth is
available in the SPC Lending Library.*

THOMAS FAMILY NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2008

Woodstock school closed in protest on August 29th along with all other Christian-affiliated schools and hospitals in the country, in solidarity with the Christian community in the state of Orissa. The

school community met for prayer and to lay flowers at the flagpole in tribute to those who have died.

Orissa is a poor but large state 1200 miles southeast of us. A tribal person - an Indian Indian, if you will - is entitled to special hiring quotas for government jobs and school appointments. In the district of Kandhamar, there are two very similar groups: one is designated as tribal, while the other is officially Hindu. There is envy among the Hindu group about the special dispensations. There is also an active revolutionary Maoist insurgency in the remote countryside of Orissa and neighboring states. Add to the mix the longstanding efforts of Christian missionaries to bring schooling along with churches to the poor. A conservative Hindu swami established a re-conversion school in the area - he was vocally anti-Christian and anti-Communist. Last month a group of masked Maoists attacked the school and shot the swami. Rumors then fueled mob frenzy against Christian villagers and church buildings. Some of the attacks were well-planned, as reported in the NYTimes September 3rd. The state government declared a curfew in the area and set up relief camps for over 13,000 refugees from the violence. Things calmed down for a while, but recently the Hindu fundamentalists published a booklet that specifically blames Christian extremists for the death of the swami, and rioting has started again. Two of our students come from Orissa, including Coleman's classmate Ankita, whose father is a church worker in another part of Orissa, safe thus far.

In the south, near Bangalore, more anti-Christian protests led the police to order the closing of three churches, and mobs to torch 12 other church buildings. Then, mysterious bombings - reportedly the work of Muslim extremists -- in Delhi marketplaces last Saturday have quite unnerved the school administration, wondering if our planned school trips to the capital in October and November should go ahead. Thankfully, we feel safe and peaceful in our isolated state; but we grieve for those suffering as a result of religiously-motivated violence.

Last weekend we joined colleagues for a campout at nearby "Flag Hill", so called because it is an accessible high and windy point where Buddhist devotees string rows of hand-printed-and-sewn prayer flags among the trees. As we were packing up to leave, a Tibetan family arrived with their new set of flags to string. Coleman sat among the flags, contemplating the beauty of the mountains, and wondering about peace. Please join us in prayer for this country of contrasts and its people who struggle to peaceably coexist. We ask, too, for your prayers for us to discern God's leading as we come to the end of our four-year contract with Woodstock School.

--Namaste,

Jeff, Barb, Chris and Coleman Thomas

The following list are those persons elected by the congregation who are willing to serve in a leadership capacity. Please, do not hesitate to call or e-mail if you have an idea, a joy, a concern, a resource or a talent to share.

SPC Leadership 2008

Rev. Timothy Ives	645-1482	Pastor Tives4932@aol.com
Elder Barbara Devir	923-3517	CLP Prison Ministry barbdevir@yahoo.com
Elders		
Linnea Carnes	941-0996	Personnel; SPCC linnrs529@aol.com
Patty Chapman	760-2453	Christian Education pchapman@stonesoupmarketing.com
Connie Curran	941-3622	SPChildren s Center ccscarborough@yahoo.com
Tom Davis	941-5537	Clerk of Session davis@clm.com
Lindsay Farrell	762-6586	Worship & Music lfarrell@ood.org
Will Ingraham	923-3736	Finance, B&G wingraham@mac.com
Amy Kitahata-Sporn	944-0471	Adult Christ. Educ. amyks@optonline.net
John Pavlik	762-4827	Communications john@thepavliks.com
Catherine Savell	827-3212	Cong 1 Life, Personnel cesavell@optonline.net
Jay Sutterlin	271-4397	Mission & Vision

Deacons

Susan Burlazzi	631-6611	sburlazzi@yahoo.com
Peter Chapman	490-1882	pchapman@steinersports.com
Karin Chaudhari	941-5736	(Cong Life/Flowers) karin.chaud@hotmail.com
Kathy Davis	941-5537	housekyd2@aol.com
Beth Henriques	762-7847	landairnyc@msn.com
Lucy Milne	373-4133	(President) lucymilne@optonline.net
Angela Rogers	(845)665-9838	(Secretary) arogers35@hotmail.com
Signe Seelinger	941-6862	signek@aol.com
Kathy Shaffren	923-9619	
Inge Vought	271-5223	vought@optonline.net
Debbie Wenninger	769-5476	(Treasurer) wenn27@aol.com
Terri Zuckerberg	762-8222	Theresa907@verizon.net

Church Treasurer

Jim Simmons 762-0979 simmonsaw@hotmail.com

Congregation Nominating Committee

Joel Cambron, Gene Croft, Connie Curran (E), Kathy Davis, Lindsay Farrell (E), Caroline Wade, Signe Seelinger (D)