

Focus

From the Pastor's View...

It's All in an Attitude

The first Sunday I arrived at KUMC, I used a metaphor in my sermon of an arranged marriage. The appointment system, I said, reminded me of an arranged marriage. As most arrangements are facilitated by the family patriarch, I associated the Bishop and Cabinet as the father figure and the church and pastor as the bride and groom. We were put together with some, but little, say on our parts and expected to blend and work together in harmonious agreement like peanut butter and jelly.

Arranged marriages, however, are not a part of our culture. We are pretty independent people who like to choose for ourselves where we live, what kind of car we drive, what we eat, what we wear, and certainly who we marry. We think no one else has the authority or the right to make those decisions for us. I suspect that sometimes, in the United Methodist system, churches and pastors consciously or unconsciously rebel against the authority that the Bishop takes in making new appointments, and unfortunately the new relationship is off to a rocky start.

I just finished re-reading the book of Genesis, the story of humanity's awakenings to the God of creation. As the story line develops, we begin to hear of arranged marriages of some of the main characters, i.e. Isaac and Rebekah and Jacob and Rachel. Though their marriages were arranged for them, Scripture says that Isaac *loved* Rebekah and Jacob *loved* Rachel. *They had a choice, didn't they?* They could have complained that it wasn't fair; that nobody asked them what they wanted; that their new

partner didn't have the qualities they were seeking in a mate. But, they didn't. Sight unseen beforehand (in the case of Isaac and Rebekah), unknown to the other, *yet they learned to love one another.*

Of course it took time. They were strangers who had to learn all about one another. There were good qualities that needed to be appreciated, encouraged, and extolled. There were less desirable qualities that needed to be accepted as part of the whole (*they were human, after all*), confronted, and gently corrected. With both the good and the bad, Isaac and Rebekah and Jacob and Rachel chose to love each other. *It was all in their attitude.*

There is another arrangement in the works for KUMC, this time with the Reverend Melissa Boyer. You don't know each other, yet soon she will be here. I pray that both Rev. Boyer and KUMC will set aside any pre-conceived ideas or expectations of each other. My hope is that, like the Biblical characters of old, you will learn to love each other. Whether or not you do, I do not know. Two things I know, however: 1) God blessed the loving relationships of our ancestors in the faith and 2) *your future is all in an attitude.*

~Pastor Peggy

ASP Car Wash: Spruce up your car for spring at the ASP Car Wash on **May 15, 22, June 5 and 12.** Your car will thank you and you will be helping to support a very worthwhile group of young adults who will soon be traveling to West Virginia. If your car doesn't need a wash



you can still support this worthy endeavor with a cash contribution. See one of the participants after church Sunday or mail a check payable to Katonah UMC and marked for ASP and mail it to the church. The ASP Group thanks you as do the families helped in Appalachia.



Calling All English Majors!

Help! We need a volunteer to teach a college-level course of English Composition to our class of 2011 at Green Haven Correctional Facility during the summer months. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in contributing to this important ministry of healing and reconciliation, please let **Deborah Moore** or **Bob Lukey** know. Thank you.

You're Invited!

Would you like to see one of the great miraculous Bible stories of the New Testament come to life today? I'm not talking about seeing Jesus walking on water or stopping a storm with a stern command. I'm talking about the story of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32. You know the one—where a despicable young man tells his father that he wants his inheritance immediately, not have to wait around for his father to die. Then he takes this money, abandons his family and squanders his funds on drunken, low-life, fair-weather friends who abandon him as soon as the money is gone. Finally, alone and starving, he has a change of heart and it dawns on him just how much he has wronged his father. And that he'd be better off working as a servant for his father than working for strangers in a foreign land. And when he returns and confesses his faults to his father, he is overwhelmed with his father's loving forgiveness.



If you would like to see this story of sin, repentance and redemption played out in real time, join us at Green Haven Correctional Facility for the graduation of the class of 2010 of Rising Hope, Inc., our prison ministry. It's Tuesday, June 15, at 9 am. If you have the time, you can stay for lunch with us at the end of the ceremony.

Our God is the author of love and forgiveness. Come and see how love can rebuild broken hearts and redeem broken lives. As Jesus says in Luke 15:7 "*...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*"

If you want to witness this miracle, please tell **Deborah Moore** or **Bob Lukey** no later than May 15, so we can get your name on the gate pass and give you the information you need to know when visiting a maximum security prison.

Heroic Apartheid Survivor to Preach Here

Pastor Peggy is excited to announce that the **Rev. Michael Lapsley** will be preaching at Katonah UMC on Sunday, June 27, at the 10:00 am worship service. After the service, he'll be showing a 15-minute video of his healing work which he started in South Africa. Please spread the news to your friends and invite them to come to hear Rev. Lapsley speak. You'll be glad you did.

When the apartheid government ruled South Africa, it did not hesitate to use violence to maintain its minority, all-white government in power. But heroes like Father Michael Lapsley, a white, Anglican priest, fearlessly spoke out against the evil of apartheid and racial oppression. Consequently, the government tried to silence Father Lapsley by sending a letter bomb to kill him. But Father Lapsley did not die in the explosion. He was seriously injured, losing both of his hands, his right eye and the hearing in his right ear.

In Father Lapsley's own words, "I am no longer a victim, nor even simply a survivor. I am a victor over evil, hatred and death. The apartheid regime and all who supported it carry the responsibility for the loss of millions of lives throughout Southern Africa."

One of the most remarkable things about the end of apartheid in South Africa is that it happened without widespread violence by the oppressed or civil war. It was achieved through peaceful means. And that peaceful transition was not followed up with revenge killings. Both are a testimony to the moral and spiritual integrity of those who lead the struggle to end apartheid.

As a result of his personal experience of suffering along with the suffering of the people of South Africa, Father Lapsley has founded the

Institute for the Healing of Memories, an international non-profit organization that gives the survivors of suffering and trauma a way to help one another heal. Father Lapsley believes that healing from trauma has a spiritual dimension, yet at the same time his workshops are open to people of all religious traditions as well as non-believers.

Father Lapsley travels the world conducting weekend healing workshops. These workshops are designed to help people heal from a wide variety of life traumas, not only political oppression. In the U.S., people carry burdens of wartime military service, abuse, crime, racism, immigration status, and past mistakes to name just a few. Using the arts and storytelling, participants examine their lives in terms of the histories of their families and nations. Using active listening to others' stories breaks down barriers between people, leading to reconciliation.

Nelson Mandela has said of him, "Michael's life represents a compelling metaphor: ...a foreigner who came to our country and was transformed. . . [His] life is part of the tapestry of the many long journeys and struggles of our people."

Last autumn, when Father Lapsley addressed a Certificate in Ministry and Human Services class of Rising Hope, Inc. at Green Haven Correctional Facility in nearby Stormville, one of the students asked him what he had been preaching that caused the government to want to kill him. His reply was, "Peace, love and *justice*."

Father Lapsley will be leading a healing workshop from June 11 through June 13 at the Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center. The workshop is open to the public, but advance reservations are a must and enrollment is limited to 25. To learn more about Father Lapsley's workshops, contact The Institute for Healing of Memories at ihomma@gmail.com or at P.O. Box 8195, White Plains, NY 10602.





Summer's Coming— HOORAY!

We're all looking forward to those wonderful days of summer when we can play our favorite sports, enjoy outdoor activities of all kinds, attend BBQs, bask in the sun, visit family and friends, and take vacation trips far and wide.

But before you leave town, don't forget your dear old church back home. While you're away, all of our bills continue to come in and require payment. We need money to pay our pastor, music director, secretary, and sexton, buy oil, pay the landscaper, the electric bill and phone bills. So please don't let your pledge payments lapse just because you're not in church on Sunday morning.

Before you leave for your well-earned rest, please make provision to keep your pledge up

to date. You can do this in one of several ways.

Write a check to cover all the Sundays you'll be away and mail it to the church before you leave town.

Mail a check each Sunday from wherever your vacation takes you.

Have your bank's online bill paying service send checks to the church while you're away. This technique avoids one big check and makes budgeting easier.

It doesn't matter how you do it, just please don't leave Katonah United Methodist Church to struggle without your pledge dollars while you're away. You'll make our treasurer, Jack Seirup's life a lot less stressful if he has the money he needs to pay our bills on time. And you won't have to write the church a big check when you return and face all your vacation bills at the same time.

Deborah Moore, Stewardship Chair

Vision Article

Do you read The Vision? It's the newsletter of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The April 23, issue has a wonderful article written by **Rev. Steve Phillips**, the pastor of the Pleasantville UMC about our prison ministry, **Rising Hope, Inc.** If you haven't seen that article yet, follow this link and check it out. www.nyac.com/console/files/oUMConnection_Issues_FMXDQI/Vision_2010_04_23_5N9LXCYM.pdf.

Rev. Stinson volunteers for Rising Hope, Inc., teaching World Religions at Fishkill Correctional Facility.



If you become aware of someone in the congregation who is sick, in the hospital or otherwise in need of a pastoral contact, please call Pastor Peggy Fabrizio at 914-232-4094 as soon as possible. We are not always aware of everything that is happening to members of the church family and would rather receive multiple calls than risk missing the opportunity to provide pastoral care.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

May 2010

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------------------|------|
| Elizabeth Walsh | 5/1 | Maija Arbolino | 5/10 |
| Hannah Czerwinski | 5/3 | Kristine Cunningham | 5/10 |
| Jordan Ellsworth | 5/3 | Leigh Neuburger | 5/12 |
| Stephen Walsh | 5/5 | Naomi Peterson | 5/16 |
| Jim Hardy | 5/6 | Nina Kellogg | 5/20 |
| Jytte Nutley | 5/6 | Dave Krumlauf | 5/20 |
| Alexandra Johnson | 5/7 | James Ingersoll | 5/25 |
| | | Erik Swee | 5/25 |



June 2010

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Tim Cunningham | 6/7 |
| Esperanza Lopez | 6/8 |
| Maria Kolack | 6/9 |
| Daniel Neuburger | 6/11 |
| Emily Procopis | 6/13 |
| AlexElconin | 6/18 |
| Bodo Fischer | 6/21 |
| Phyllis Taylor | 6/22 |
| Kirk Beaty | 6/23 |
| Kaitlyn Hardy | 6/25 |



Leeann's office hours are: Wednesday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Peggy's office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, unless at a meeting or away.

Pastor Peggy's day off is **Friday**.

Katonah United Methodist Church
5 Bedford Road

Katonah, NY 10536
E-mail: katonahumc@optonline.net

Bishop: Jeremiah Park • District Superintendent: Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii

Pastor: Peggy Fabrizio •

[address correction requested](#)

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Reception to Honor Pastor Peggy

Rev. Fabrizio has shared her decision to retire after 14 years in the Ministry. The congregation will be holding a reception in honor of this important milestone in her life, and recognize her contributions to the churches she has faithfully served. Please join Peggy and her friends and family on June 13th at 2 p.m. in the Parish House for the reception.

Ellen Rohrer will be organizing the event and is asking for volunteers to help with the details of the celebration. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ellen at (914) 525-5215 or e-mail her at ebrohrer@yahoo.com .

