

HEIRLOOM

of the Union Church of Bay Ridge
Ridge Boulevard and 80th Street

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Brooklyn, New York 11209

October/November, 2007

Rev. Mary Barrett Speers, *Pastor*
Jody Levine, *Administrator*



MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Dearest Union Church Family,

Every October, I give thanks for another year in ministry with you. We began our ministry together on World Communion Sunday, 2001. Can you believe that this October marks the beginning of our *seventh* year together? I'm looking forward to World Communion Sunday this October 7, as we still pray for peace and reconciliation. I remember always that God believes in us, and as Jeremiah tells us, God has plans of peace for us, to give us a future and a hope.

This fall especially, I'm excited about our future together in Bay Ridge. We have a wonderful new Minister of Music, Vince Peterson, and he is working on another marvelously eclectic concert series for 2007-08. The first in the series will be Sunday, October 21 at 4pm, featuring *Peter and the Wolf* by Prokofiev, with a surprise guest narrator (thanks to Bruce MacIntyre). Our organ console and its connections are being rebuilt, and the November concert will be a glorious rededication with multiple guest artists on Sunday, November 18 at 4pm.

The organ renovation and *Peter and the Wolf* would not have been possible without the generosity of Frank and Peggy Tudor, who belonged to Union Church many years ago and remembered music at Union Church in their will. Peggy was a good friend of Vivian Masterson, who always spoke warmly of her, and the two stayed in touch by phone weekly throughout Peggy's long and valiant battle with cancer. I'm hoping to gather any remembrances of Frank and Peggy to put in the program notes on November 18, so if any of you has a story or a photo, please call or write the office.

Taizé services are finally here! Many of you who receive this newsletter are members of other faith communities, and I want to extend a warm welcome on behalf of Union Church to any of you who would like to participate in this monthly, Tuesday evening ecumenical service of prayer and song. For those of you who may not know, the Taizé community was founded in eastern France at the close of World War II, to bring together Christians of all traditions and languages in the hope that the result might eventually be world peace. Taizé was Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox from its inception.

Some of you are still talking about the Taizé service Vince led during Lent. This kind of devotional singing is a great love of Vince's, and it is part of his ministry with us to share it with the Bay Ridge community, every first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in our Sanctuary.

Our new Wednesday Bible study at Redeemer St John's Church has been great fun. So far three people from Union Church (you know who you are!) have come along to meet with members of three other churches in Bay Ridge, Sunset Park, and Dyker Heights for an hour of Bible study, a brown bag lunch, coffee and cake, fellowship and service. The group is collecting non-clothes for an October 7 flea market, and periodically makes sandwiches for a local hunger program. It's a lively, well-informed group of women and men with 15-18 participants each week.

This year's fall food drive will benefit the Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults. Please bring canned goods (staples) and packaged dry foods to church on Sundays, or to the office on weekdays. No glass or perishables, please. The collection box in the Sanctuary is in the vestibule as you come in.

Farther in the future, the Bay Ridge pastors are working together to plan the Bay Ridge community Thanksgiving service at the end of November this year, and Vince Peterson and the choir are already working on music for Advent.

Fall will be Christmas before you know it, so NOW is the time to jump in and get involved in your church!

Blessings,

MARATHON OF PRAYER AND PRAISE NOVEMBER

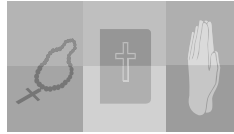
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Taking worship to the Marathon—the third year in a row!
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight...and run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...(Heb 12:1)

Session invites all the Union Church family to join with Bay Ridge churches (Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, etc.!) for a joint worship "happening" in the front yard (and inside) of the Methodist Church, which is right where the two streams of runners rejoin each other after coming over the Verrazano Bridge. We're bringing worship to the

Marathon, on the lawn of **Bay Ridge United Methodist Church at Ovington and Fourth Avenue**. It'll be mostly music and celebration and welcoming the runners from all over the world to Brooklyn, City of Churches...AND a way for all of us to be PART of this event. Once again, we'll rock to Caribbean steel band music from the Young Apostles, plus a panoply of Bay Ridge church choirs: an Exaltation of Angels. The event begins with breakfast at 8:30 in the Methodist Church parish house, and continues outdoors (or under a tent, depending on the weather) until we go inside for a more traditional worship with ecumenical communion after the runners have passed by, around 12 noon. Bay Ridge United Methodist has a **parking lot**, so **arrive early** before it fills up! Please note that **this will be the Union Church worship service on November 4**, and that the **ecumenical communion at noon will be our Nov 4 communion service** also.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE and for all people living in poverty, war, natural and economic disaster, especially survivors of the attacks of September 11, 2001; for prisoners and all who watch and pray for them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Also we pray for and stay in touch with: Bill Louisa, Iris Norstrand, Warren Gatto, Dolores Cleary, Evelyn Riccio, Carolyn Ramsay, Emile Serpos, Nazik David, Milford Anderson, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Helen Kretiv; the family and friends of Bob, Wilma, Tim, and Pat; the Jansen family, Elizabeth and her family, Larry, Dana, Paul, Jon, Bud, Grace, Rick, Michelle, and Kendra.



ROSTER OF ELDERS TO SERVE COMMUNION



Acting Coordinator: Mary Cusack 718.680.3441. If the date or dates you have been given does not suit you, please exchange them with a fellow elder, or if a replacement can not be found, please call "Mary Q".

October 7th , Sunday 11:00 am
World Communion Art Samuel

November 4th Sunday 12:00 noon
at Bay Ridge United Medodist Church 4th Avenue and Ovington (Marathon of Prayer and Praise)

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER FLOWERS

Chancel flowers were dedicated to the glory of God and given by: August 5th - IMO Rev. Dr. David Feazell, from Jane Feazell; August 19th IMO Albert Mossawir – from Morag Mossawir; September 9th - IMO James C. MacIntyre from Bruce MacIntyre



THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE is located at the back of the sanctuary to remember dear departed members of Union Church: 9/30—Shikri Coury; 10/7—Nancy Gatto; 10/14—Thomas J. Ferretti; 10/21—Bernice Reid; 10/28—May Crawford; 11/4—William Reppke; 11/11—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/18—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/25—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

If you worship with us and would like your birthday listed in our newsletter, fill in the birthday calendar at the back of the sanctuary with your name and birth date or call the office.

October

- 2 – Tyler Gamaliy
- 4 – Marek Kurek
- 11 – Ruth Boll
- 14 – Bill Costello
- 22 – Bill Cleary
- 27 – Kathryn Lynch
- 29 – Elizan Morales

November

- 3 – Kora Lynch
- 7 – Tommy Green
- 16 – Maria Kurek
- 14 – Robert Kelter
- 21 – Iris Norstrand

UNION CHURCH CONCERTS 2007-08 FALL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2007, 4PM

Peter and the Wolf

Music Director Vince Peterson conducts the inaugural concert of this series with The Academy of Union Church, a surprise narrator, and special guest soprano Ariadne Greif. This family-oriented program will also include Lutoslawski's brilliant *Chantefleurs et Chantefables* for soprano and orchestra, and the Brooklyn premiere of *Trilogy for the Endangered Species* by Candace Forest. You don't want to miss this spectacular concert, made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Frank and Margaret Tudor. (The concert will be repeated for school groups by prior arrangement, 10am Wednesday, October 24, with a different narrator.)

Tickets: \$10 general / \$8 Children under 10 and senior citizens at the door. (Public school fee structure for the Wednesday reprise)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 2007, 4PM

Union Church Organ Dedication

Concert of Organ Works to dedicate the newly renovated console of Union Church's organ. The fantastic lineup of performers will include music director Vince Peterson, Tom Colao (Westminster Choir College), T. Desirée Hines and a very special surprise guest performer. Program will include works of J.S. Bach, Ambroise Thomas, Louis Vierne, and, of course, Widor's *Toccata*. The organ renovation was also made possible by the estate of Frank and Margaret Tudor.

Freewill offering at the door supports music at Union Church.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 2007, 4PM

John Kaboff, Cellist

Mr. Kaboff has performed as soloist locally at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The United States Department of State, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Embassies of Germany and New Zealand, The Church of the Epiphany, Dumbarton House, and has been a repeat soloist with the JCC Symphony Orchestra and The Landon Symphonette.

Freewill offering at the door supports music at Union Church.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2007, 11AM

Union Church Choir: Carols and Lullabies

Union Church Choir performs Conrad Susa's masterpiece, *Carols and Lullabies*, with harp, guitar and marimba. This multi-lingual work transports the listener to the Southwest with Susa's brilliant adaptations of traditional Castilian, Mexican, Catalonian, Andalucian, Puerto Rican, Biscayan and Spanish Christmas carols. Mark your calendars and join us for this musical celebration.

Admission is free.

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY 11AM WEDNESDAYS

Rev Speers is co-leading study of the Book of Exodus, 11am Wednesdays in the Midweek Morning Bible Study at Redeemer St John's Lutheran Church Parish House, 933 83rd St in Dyker Heights.

The classes of about 15 men and women meet on the first floor of the Redeemer St John's Parish House. Bible study is from 11-12, followed by brown bag lunch, with coffee, tea and cake provided, fellowship, and occasional service. The office phone number there is 833-7700.

This Bible study meets at approximately the same time as our former Brown Baggers. All are invited: whether you are a former Brown Bagger or not, please let Rev. Speers know if you would like to participate, and she'll be happy to pick you up and bring you home again. This is a great opportunity: it's a cooperative daytime Bible Study, with about regular participants from Redeemer St John's, Salem, and Trinity (45th Street) Lutheran Churches. We are hoping to expand it to include Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, etc. etc., for study and fellowship.

CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE

At long last, Rev. Liz Alexander was installed September 9 as Designated Pastor of the Church of Gethsemane, with good representation from Union Church. Rev. Speers served on the Presbytery administrative commission and preached the sermon, and Union Church elders Shirley Tuccillo and Mary Chamberlain also attended.

The Church of Gethsemane is a congregation of ex-offenders and their supporters, located in Park Slope with members living in the five boroughs and some still incarcerated. Rev. Alexander, their pastor, and Chibueze Okorie, their Minister of Evangelism, have both spoken in worship at Union Church. We have been giving children's books for their Christmas party for our Gifts Sunday for the

last few years, and are exploring other ways to strengthen our mission partnership with them.

UNION CHURCH PLAY GROUP

The Union Church playgroup was a great success and ran its first 5 week summer session. Session I Fall classes have begun and there is still some room available. Play Group is a spacious place with lots of interesting things for a child to do, such as blocks, trains, housekeeping, and doll house, dress-up, puzzles, books, puppets, crafts, etc. A snack is provided along with a story read by the director. There is also Music Time with songs, instruments and marching.



Playgroup is for toddlers and a caretaker, and meets Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 – 11:30 am and Monday and Wednesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 pm in the basement of the church (7915 Ridge Blvd. corner of 80th Street and Ridge Blvd). The cost is \$175.00 – \$210.00 for a 10, 11 or 12 week class based on the calendar schedule. There are three sessions per calendar year.

If you are interested in joining or would like an application sent to you please call the church office at 718.745.0438.

CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTIES

The Union Church is now offering two-hour recreational parties for young children held in a large play room with toys, dress-up costumes, dolls, cars, play kitchen, play houses, ride on toys and much more. The parties are held on Friday 4-6 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00-1:00 pm or 2:00- 4:00 pm. Each party includes face painting, balloon sculptures, tattoos, beverage, pizza, ice cream sundaes and cake. Coffee and tea is included, parent food is extra.



For reservations and information, please call Jody at 718.745.0438.

SESSION meets the fourth Monday of every month, at 7pm in the Parish House. The next stated meeting is Monday, October 22 (that is the fourth Monday in October), and the November meeting is Monday, November.

PROGRAM/MISSION COMMITTEE meets the second Monday of every month, at 7pm in the Parish House: October 8 and November 12.

YOGA with Kristin Miller



Yoga classes are every Wednesday evening 6:45-8:15 in the Union Church basement located on the corner of 80th Street and Ridge Blvd. Please bring a mat and a towel and arrive a few

minutes early. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED for the gentle, restorative class. Open to all; cost is \$12.00 per session – call Kristin at 718-745-6594.

DEAR BASKETBALL PLAYERS

If you would like to rent our Parish House gym, we have 2-hour time slots open evenings during the week, and on weekends. Call the office for details at 718.745.0438 ask for Jody.



AGAPE: AN INTROSPECTIVE by Ruth Ward



Yes, Virginia, agape is real; it exists as surely as rivers flow seaward, children laugh and play, or God's rules for our planet reign immovably. As with faith it is not a tangible commodity, though both are (we hope) firmly entrenched in our hearts. All of us Christians know about it. Sometimes it just takes a little nudge to put it foremost and incorporate it in our lives.

Agape is defined as unselfish love, or God-like love. Often it is elusive, buried among the clutter of life in a world where getting can easily outweigh giving in a heartbeat. I felt its presences keenly when all of my family came to visit in August. Only 20 year-old Katie was not here, busy carving out her own life. She, herself, sets the bar high, unselfishly loving to bake batches of cookies for friends, knitting (for others) and modest to the nth degree about her college honors.

Having four-year old Sean in our midst easily led to a lot of joy; his spirits and energy were unquenchable. Sean played board games, created his own, seemingly ad infinitum, even after a day of seeing New York sights. One night his parents left early for Shea Stadium. I confess I was apprehensive thinking their absence might be more difficult for him at bedtime. I need not have worried. We played until the timer went off signaling pre-bed cleanup. He took charge, directing me which half to do, then picked out three books and came up with me. Sean did his own preparations. When a phone call came from mom and dad, he picked it up, asked which button to push and cheerily told them all we had done.

He climbed in, allowed me a goodnight kiss, I left. I went to lie on my bed, mentally laying odds that in 20 minutes he'd pop out saying he couldn't sleep, was too hot etc. The joke was on me. I began to listen to the game and I fell asleep! But so had he. That night I felt filled with peace and love, surely the luckiest grandma ever. That, however, was family. We genuinely care for each other and my self-satisfaction at our agape was not necessarily justified. Jesus has told us that we must love even, and especially, people we don't particularly like. And not just in thought but in deed. Then He gave us the supreme example on the Cross. Sinless, but loving, forgiving to the end.

Perhaps none of us can attain such a sinless state. However, we get a chance to try anew each day. I am disappointed in myself as I glance around a subway car, aware that I do not easily feel loving toward my fellow man. Maybe practicing, as in a conscious effort to care, would help to strengthen my concern. A small step toward the achievement of agape, and well worth an effort. After all nothing in Christian living is ever really easy.

Eternal life awaits; we learn to be worthy here on earth.

TOO BUSY NOTTO PRAY

Once a month, the third Saturday of each month, a group of members and friends get together to explore various modes of prayer and various topics of mutual interest. The group meets at the church Sanctuary from 9-10:30am and childcare is provided. The October meeting is Saturday, October 20, and the November meeting is Saturday, November 17; call Lynn Penney 917.538.9752. In September, Lynn led the group in guided meditation and discussion based on this thought of Anthony de Mello, a contemporary Jesuit spiritual leader:



I seek a place in fantasy where I can be alone with Jesus Christ. What feelings and reaction does this create in me?

The topic of my talk with him today is faith.

Faith is the assent of the mind to a truth revealed by God. From among the many truths about Jesus Christ presented in the scriptures I choose a few that I have found to be meaningful to me.

Than I talk to him about this special creed I have composed.

Faith concerns the word, the promise of another. How many of the promises of Jesus do I have faith in? I talk to him about this too.

To have faith means to trust. Do I trust Jesus Christ? I tell him what this means to me in practice.

If I am Jesus's disciple it is not enough that I have faith in him. It is equally important that he have faith in me. A friend calls forth, creates, a quality that he sees in me – it is thus that a lover creates his beloved, a Master his disciple.

Does Jesus have this kind of faith in me? What has he seen and brought to light in me? I imagine that I hear him tell me.

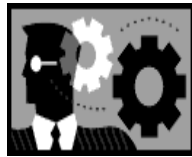
When Jesus first set eyes on Peter, the Fearful, the Impulsive, he saw in him what no one would have thought was there and nicknamed him the Rock – so Peter changed eventually, becoming what the nickname said he was. What kind of name or names does Jesus find for me? I listen and react to what he says.

THE BLESSING Submitted by Olive Reich

May the light around us guide our footsteps, and hold us fast to the best and most righteous that we seek. May the darkness around us nurture our dreams, and give us rest that we may give ourselves to the work of our world. Let us seek to remember the wholeness of our lives, the weaving of light and shadow in this great and astonishing dance in which we move.

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Submitted by: Parvati



Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wiley E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride; he sticks his head out the window?

HANDY LITTLE CHART God has a positive answer:

<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not	God says: I give you	(I Corinthians

smart enough"	wisdom	1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

...submitted by Bob Davis,
our Union Church computer doctor

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE

Notary Public services are available at the Union Church Parish House located at 8101 Ridge Blvd. Monday - Thursday 12:00 – 2:00. Calling first is recommended: 718.745.0438 and ask for Jody. This service is free to all Union Church members.



DEADLINES - The newsletter belongs to the church community. What you want in it must be submitted. The next newsletter deadline is Monday, November 12 2007. The deadline for items to be included in any Sunday bulletin is the previous Monday at 12 noon.

PEACEMONGERS BULLETIN BOARD

gleanings from our bulletin announcements

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT 7:30 PM: The **Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church** is excited to host Ms. Maruzella Abboud, of the PCUSA International Peacemaker program. Ms. Abboud has worked with both the Middle East Council of Churches and the YWCA, and presently teaches at the Near East School of Theology. She will be speaking on the situation in Lebanon and her work in peacemaking. All are welcome; the church is at 6753 Fourth Avenue. Coffee and deserts will be provided. This is a great thing to do to get ready for...

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT 7PM *and all First Tuesdays*
Taizé service of prayer and song at Union Church!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7:

World Communion Sunday in Your Church!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 11-5, PEACE FESTIVAL at the **Bay Ridge United Methodist Church**, Fourth and Ovington Avenues.