



"Proclaim the message;  
be persistent whether  
the time is favorable or  
unfavorable."

- Paul  
second letter to Timothy

# The Messenger

## Celebrating 1866 - 2016

On July 5<sup>th</sup> 1866, a group of German immigrants set a cornerstone for their new church on property in East Port Chester, CT donated by Philip Rollhaus and William Abendroth. This was after a year of meeting in Port Chester at the Presbyterian Church on Main Street. Now they were building their own house of worship and forming a congregation then called "St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church."



The Beljeon Bench is part of our Sesquicentennial Meditation Garden.

Next month that congregation will mark it's 150th Anniversary with a worship service and luncheon.

The young congregation grew rapidly and by the 1960s was ready for a new, modern building. After an interim which meant converting a residence into a chapel (now a residence again on Castle View Ct.) and also renting the old Mason's Hall on Irving Avenue in Port Chester, a new building was ready on March 20<sup>th</sup> 1966. For the last 50 years St. Paul's has worshipped on King Street in what would become Rye Brook.

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Currently Pastor Beljeon is doing Interim ministry at Our Savior in Nokomis, FL.

**Child Care Center**  
M-F 7:30am -5:30pm  
Children 6 weeks old  
to 5 years  
Suzanne Newcomb, Director  
914 939-3079

Pastor Jim O'Hanlon  
johanlon.stpauls@gmail.com  
**Cell phone 917 803-3974**  
Don Weber, Council President  
Barbara Tormondsen, Administrator  
Donna Smith, Secretary 914 939-8170

# Sesquicentennial

Continued from page 1

While the congregation began as German, there were always other nationalities, especially Finish, Danish and Swedish. Today the worship is in English although there are still a number of German emigres. The congregation continues to have an immigrant flavor but now it is an international recipe with first or second generation immigrants from China, Kenya, Sweden, Taiwan, Russia, Peru, four different Caribbean Islands, Mexico, Botswana, South Africa, Ghana, Finland, Germany, Brazil and England.

In the 1960s, St. Paul's marked their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by breaking new ground. They purchased seven acres from the estate of the granddaughter of the industrialist William Ward who had built a castle on the New York side of the NY/CT border (check it out on Magnolia Drive).

Breaking ground is something we do all the time; one of our members was the first Lutheran woman ordained in Metropolitan New York. In 2003 we called a woman Pastor. For the members of St. Paul's breaking ground means pioneering a mission to reach out to groups that were once excluded. This is in keeping with the mission of the apostle for whom we are named who once wrote, "there is no longer slave or free, Jew nor Greek, male or female, all are one in Christ." (Galatians 3)

In the 1960's our longest serving Pastor, Luther Freimuth, advocated for better housing for the poor and joined in public demonstrations for civil rights with the NAACP. The journey for an ever greater circle of inclusion continues; in 2009 our national church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, voted to allow gays and lesbians in committed relationships to serve as Pastors.

As old as we may be we are "always being made new." (2 Corinthians 5)

Amazing strawberry creations at our celebration with guests Rev. Bill, Helen and Heather Beljean.



Breaking ground is something we do all the time.



Having already been confirmed and "freed" in June, our youth then revived a youth choir on Father's Day!

## **Pride Month**

As clergy of Jewish and Christian houses of worship in Rye Brook and Port Chester, we join our voices to affirm both the divine image of the human being and the call to love all neighbors. As LGBTQ Pride Month draws near, let us be mindful that God cares for gay and lesbian people no less than anyone else and we reject any use of our religions to tarnish their humanity and dignity. God's image is not seen in one gender or race, but in the infinite diversity of humanity. God does not hate or condemn people in their created differences.

As people of faith, we must rise to the challenge of bias hatred and help bridge differences with understanding and compassion. People of all beliefs should speak out for the humanity and prudence of working together for the common good. Parents, teachers, leaders, and community members must watch for and correct disparaging comments and discriminatory attitudes. Moreover, we must monitor ourselves and our example of how we act towards people who are different.

We speak from our traditions and from our faith practices to call for an effort to teach our children respect for differences. As a community, it is incumbent upon us to speak out against bullying and harassment and to remember that indeed, each of us is created in God's image.

Signed

Rabbi Jaymee Alpert  
Fr. Hilario Albert  
Rev. John Bruce Baker  
Rev. Kristin Saylor  
Pastor Jim O'Hanlon

May 27<sup>th</sup> 2016

**“God cares  
for gay and  
lesbian  
people no  
less than  
anyone  
else....”**



# Helping Hands



Thanks to everyone who did so much for our Strawberry Festival, especially everyone who brought food for the local pantry. Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring our food drive.

Learn more about Thrivent by asking Barbara Tormondsen or Pastor Jim

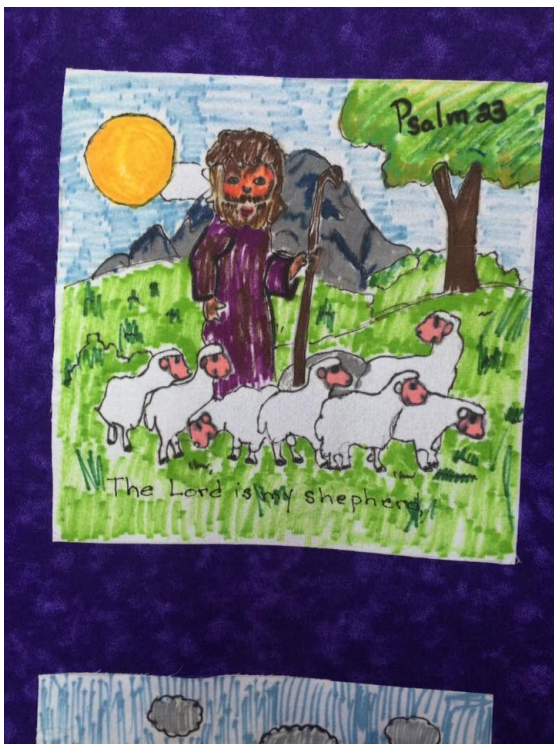
or [www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com)

William O'Doherty

800-838-1159

[William.ODoherty@Thrivent.com](mailto:William.ODoherty@Thrivent.com)

Thanks to our Sunday School for the beautiful quilt in honor of our 150th Anniversary!! Each square is a Bible Verse. Below: Psalm 23.



The Lutheran churches of Tanzania are our special companions. Members of their churches visit Metro NY churches and visa versa as we keep up with how each is doing. We have helped with building schools and churches and usually provide a teacher. Last month they were victimized by anti-Christian extremists who burned a church. We want to help with the cost of repairs.

Write "Tanzania" on memo line or envelope with a check to "St. Paul's" and we will write one check.

Our Roller Derby was great fun with scooters, bikes, roller blades and we also did some fundraising.

- Atsile Masisi raised \$200 for St. Paul's
- Casey Schultz raised \$150 for St. Paul's 150th anniversary
- Edzani Kelapile raised \$35 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Madison Alli raised \$30 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- Last month's preschool Trike a thon raised \$4,800 for St. Jude's.

All worthy causes, and an awesome job done all around!

Did you get your  
2016 Photo Directory?

## Milestones

- \* Prayers for the family of Don Hibbard who died on May 12th.
- \* Prayers of thanksgiving for newborn Megan Joy, little sister of Madison Alli, daughter of Jilian and David.
- \* Congratulations to Jack Guinta on his retirement after 53 years with Port Chester Schools!

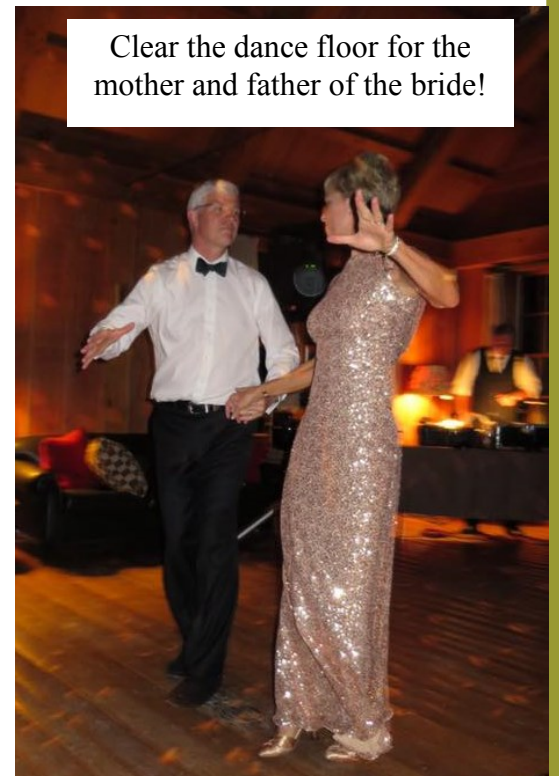


Photo above: Pastor Jim visiting with friends Mary and Rev. John Heller (retired) at the Annual Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly. One of many ecumenical visitors who brought greetings was Father Brian McWeeney (Above center) of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York who also happened to be Jim's parish priest forty years ago. Thanks also Dick & Philip for attending.



**When Bishop Eaton visits next month** it will be a special honor to have our national Bishop visit us for our Anniversary. It is not the first time we have been visited by our national leader. Dick Case recently gave a talk about **Franklin C. Fry**. On Easter Sunday 1963 worship was led by Franklin Clark Fry who had been national Bishop from 1944. The previous year, Rev. Fry led a merger of four Lutheran denominations in creating the Lutheran Church in America, becoming its first President. (The title "Bishop" would replace "President" in 1980.) After 25 years this national church would again merge with two other Lutheran denominations. Fry also served as President of the Lutheran World Federation. Dick Case was baptized by Franklin Fry as he was his pastor in Akron, Ohio.

**Photo:** President J. F. Kennedy, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos and Rev. Franklin C. Fry (1900 – 1968) at a meeting in 1962. Photo courtesy of Philip Jenks.



Clear the dance floor for the mother and father of the bride!



150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Cornerstone Ceremony.

**Featuring Chip Gawle and  
the Arlberg Brass Quintet**

Menu for July 10<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

- \* Grilled Pork & Pineapple skewers with Achiote Sauce.
- \* Chicken Satay with peanut sauce & Cucumber relish
- \* Grilled vegetable salad
- \* Wild rice salad with cranberries, carrots, scallions, watercress & pumpkin seeds.
- \* Fresh berries, Tarts

*July is the  
150 Anniversary  
of our  
cornerstone.*

*Our worship  
leader for  
July 10<sup>th</sup> is  
Bishop  
Elizabeth Eaton.*

*Presiding (national)  
Bishop of the  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America.*



Sent with a prayer to:

**St. Paul's**  
761 King Street at Comly Ave.  
Rye Brook, New York 10573  
(914) 939-8170

