

## Women's Club Meetings

By Beth LaBrie

The Board of Directors of the PKS Women's Club will hold their meeting Friday, March 18 at the Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.. Any member of the Women's Club is welcome to attend any board meeting.

On March 25 members, guests and visitors will meet at 9:30 a.m. for a social time, with the meeting to follow at 10:00 a.m. in Town Hall. Susan Simpson of Carteret County Library will be our speaker. Hostesses for the day will be Kathy Kimel, Blanche Yancey and Betty Hunter.

The two Book Clubs, the Supper Club and the Cook's Night Out are meeting regularly. Contact Pat Ruggiero for the Supper Club and Mary Greene if you are interested in a Book Club. New members are welcome.

The Cook's Night Out will be April 15 at 6:00 p.m. at Floyd's 1921 restaurant

at Fourth and Bridges Streets. Telephone Pat Filan, 240-3119, with your reservation by April 10.

All of our meetings are open to women who are residents of Pine Knoll Shores who would like to see and hear what we are doing. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome. If you would like further information, please telephone Mary Kanyha at 247-4153.

**The Book Clubs are reading...**

The **Beach Book Club** will meet at the home of Pauly Brown on March 10 at 2 pm to discuss *The Namesake: A Novel* by Jhumpa Lahiri.

**Between the Bookends** will meet at the home of Rae Jones on March 14 at 2 p.m. to discuss *The Jane Austin Book Club* by Karen Jay Fowler.

You are invited to join and read with a book club through the Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club. Please contact Mary Greene at 222-3005.

Book Review

## Father Joe:

### The Man Who Saved My Soul

By Tony Hendra 271 pp. Random House 24.95

By Dick Reeves

Against the background of the recent scandals of the Roman Catholic Church comes a book that delineates the true meaning of "Godness", of humanity, and of the exhortation, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Tony Hendra, a confused youth, a zealot and an unhappy satirist, a successful and brilliant writer, seeks the ultimate meaning of life and the answers to questions like, Why are we here? Is there a God? Who created the universe? and What do I do with my life?

As a youth, he tries to balance the alluring forces of testosterone with the tyranny of a church that denies and demonizes sex and permanently damages the psyche of generations of adolescents.

But then, a miracle happens. Tony is introduced to Father Joe, the Reverend Joseph Warrilow, an English Benedictine Monk who spent most of his life in a monastery on the Isle of Wight off England's southern coast.

Father Joe doesn't preach, doesn't judge, doesn't counsel. He listens, he laughs and he loves every one of God's creations - agnostics, atheists, saints and sinners. Because Father Joe is a living, breathing 20<sup>th</sup> century saint, he not only

saves Tony Hendra's soul, but it turns out in the end of the book that he has saved hundreds of others. Meanwhile, Hendra believes, as does the reader, that Father Joe has devoted his entire life to the role of confessor to one wayward soul.

Meanwhile, Hendra struggles through a life of outward success but inward failures including loneliness, failed marriages, friendships and betrayals - all the vicissitudes of life. But Tony has an anchor. And that anchor is Father Joe and the Isle of Wight. Again and again, when his soul, his ego, his very being runs out of gas, he returns to Father Joe for the recharge that allows him to face and conquer his personal demons.

Father Joe is a book that is entertaining, profound and addictive. I read it in one sitting as did many others. It is a book that you want everyone to read. At the same time, you don't want to let it out of your personal library. It deserves a place among the great books and the great thinkers from Aquinas to Shakespeare.

The icing on the cake is that Hendra is not only a profound thinker, he is a great writer who can hold his own with any modern writer from Hemmingway to Wolfe.

Our world has never had so many hypocrites and false prophets. Father Joe is the breath of fresh air we all need. If only we could clone him.

## At the Library

Bogue Banks Public Library (252)247-4660

### CALENDAR FOR MARCH

**What's New:** Take a few extra minutes and stop by the ever popular jigsaw puzzle table for a new puzzle challenge. Income tax forms for state and federal filing are now at the library. Copies of the most used forms and reproducible tax forms are available. The reproducible forms can be used to make copies on our copier (still only \$.15 per copy).

**New Books at the Library:** Best Sellers now available at the library include "The Broker" by John Grisham, "Hour Game" by David Baldacci, "London Bridges" by James Patterson, "By Order of the President" by W.E.B. Griffin and "A Salty Piece of Land" by Jimmy Buffett.

**Featured Artists for March:** The Art Gallery will feature an exciting show by the popular Gloucester artist, Sally Anger. Her show includes paintings in oil, acrylics and watercolor, with subjects ranging from portraits to florals to local marsh landscapes. Her work is well known for the use of bright color. The library's showcases for the month will feature sample portraits by the former Morehead City artist, Harold Brammer, who recently moved his studio to nearby Wilmington. Mr. Brammer will be on hand at the artist's reception to answer questions about his work.

**Artist's Reception:** Open to the public and hosted by The Friends of the Library for March's featured artists on March 11 from 3 to 4 p.m. Please join us and bring your friends to meet these talented artists. Light refreshments will be served.

**Activities for Children:** Preschool Storytimes each Thursday at 10 a.m. with Ms.

Rebekah. "Journey to Space" on March 3, "Apple Seed Day" on March 10, "St. Patty's Day" on March 17 and "Egg Hunt" on March 24, and "Spring Celebration" on March 31.

Regular hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Bogue Banks Public Library is a branch of the Carteret County Public Library in Beaufort and is affiliated with the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library.



The "Reading Robot" welcomes children to their room at the Bogue Banks Public Library in Pine Knoll Shores. This robot dresses for the season. Children's Storytime is 10 am on Thursdays with Ms. Rebekah.

## "I Know Why"

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt Shane could learn something from the experience.

The next day I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, I wondered if he understood what

was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me - I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "Everybody is born so that they can learn how to live a good life, like loving everybody and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued. "Well, dogs already know how to do that so they don't have to stay as long."