

New Bible Chapel Helps Seekers Apply Old Writings To World Perspective Today

By ROBERTA E. CANNON

Upper Cape residents who have a curiosity or questions about the Bible may want to stop by the Woods Hole Bible Chapel on June 6.

The Bible study group will meet at the Old Fire Station on Water Street in Woods Hole for a 9 AM chapel service. This will be followed by a question and answer period, called the Lion's Den, and refreshments at 10 AM.

"We will be focusing our attention on what the Bible says and how to properly understand what it means in today's world from personal, political, economic, historical, and scientific perspectives," said Eric Karplus, who is the organizer of the group.

"We really hope that everyone who is curious about the Bible, or has ever wanted to ask tough questions about the Bible, will come by," Mr. Karplus said.

Mr. Karplus's interest in the Bible was piqued about 10 years ago, during a conversation with microbiologist at the Center for Environmental Biotechnology at Oak Ridge National Labs in Knoxville, Tennessee, where Mr. Karplus was installing equipment. The microbiologist invited him to a Bible study group at a

friend's home. Mr. Karplus said he realized he knew very little about the Bible.

He resolved to learn more, but business commitments abroad kept him busy and he never "got serious about it," until five years ago.

At the urging of a friend, Mr. Karplus and his wife, Anastasia Karplus, began attending Bible studies at the Falmouth Baptist Church in Falmouth Heights. During the past five years, Mr. Karplus began seriously studying the Bible, which has radically changed the way he approaches life, he said.

After much discussion with his wife, Mr. Karplus "thought it would be fun to start a group in Woods Hole" that would give others the opportunity to learn what is in the Bible.

Along with another Falmouth Baptist Church member, Dennis J. Clough of Old Dock Road, West Falmouth, who suggested having Chapel services on Sundays in the summer, they began to make plans for their program.

"We had some discussions with the pastor and deacons at Falmouth Baptist Church and with their encouragement," the Woods Hole Bible Chapel was formed, Mr. Karplus said.

The Woods Hole Bible Chapel is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit, religious organization.

Mr. Karplus also appeared before the Falmouth Design Review Committee last month for permission to place a sign outside the Old Fire Station so people will find the location more easily. The Falmouth Board of Selectman approved the sign last Monday evening.

The chapel services will be held on Sunday mornings through August. The exception is Road Race Weekend which is August 8, when the service will not be held.

Mr. Karplus has long ties with Woods Hole and Falmouth. His grandfather, WJV Osterhout, did research at the Marine Biological Laboratory, when it first began.

Mr. Karplus also worked summers in a lab at the Marine Biological Laboratory beginning in 1984.

Mr. Karplus was graduated in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a certificate in solid state physics from Princeton University. He moved to Falmouth and started a company, Science Wares Inc., after graduation. He builds research equipment for scientists around the world.

Mr. Karplus married the former Anastasia Kanellopoulos of Falmouth, in 1995. Mrs. Karplus is a graduate of Falmouth High School and the daughter of Christos G. and Barbara Kanellopoulos of Hamlin Road, Falmouth, who were the owners of the former Christopher's Restaurant of Falmouth.

Mr. and Mrs. Karplus are also co-founders of Full Circle Energy Project Inc. of Falmouth, a non-profit sustainable energy company.

The couple has two children, Christos, 5, and Theodora, 2.