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The United Methodist Church of Hempstead
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The Parish News (USPS 421-140)
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April 2015 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



APRIL 2015

VOLUME 76-NO. 58

REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



IN THE WIND (A Hidden Message)

Have you ever wondered why we can see, feel
and interact with most elements?
The Sun supplies us with heat and light by day
Through its radiant rays of light
Much beauty can be seen in a sunset
Or in a bright and Starry night

Too much Rain or Snow brings destruction
To lives as well as our homes
Excess heat or
cold weather
Plays havoc on our
bodies, especially
our bones

Then there's the
"Wind" - What a
mystery!
It's the element
we can't see
We feel its calm or
power



We hear it whistle or howl
We witness its presence when the
Trees sway - At times so powerful
They seem to "Bow"
We embrace its coolness -
On a hot summer's day
As it moves in, around and about us
It can uproot trees where it sees fit
Yet there's no existing without it

Can we then
liken the "Wind" to the
"Holy Spirit"
Working in, among and through us?
Correcting us when we do wrong
Lifting us up when we feel down
Creating an "Intimate Connection"
Pure, Soothing, Hidden,
Undeified
Yet not seen by any Human eye

J. Wellington / March 2015

The long-awaited spring is finally here, and with it the hope of resurrection. For those of us who live in the West, Easter is celebrated in spring time when life begins its comeback after a hefty winter. Nature with its magnificent, enchanting and colorful scenery of blossoming flowers, trees dressed with abundant green leaves, grass fighting to gain back its natural state, and the distinct singing of the birds remind us that resurrection is about life and joy. In April and May, other signs will also point to this resurrection experience, as flea markets, garage sales, confirmations, graduations, and proms show us that resurrection is about life in community and celebration.

But before all of this can gain any meaningful spiritual sense in our pilgrimage toward Easter, first we have to begin walking the Lenten journey. Here at the Hempstead Church, the Lenten suppers and reflections on Wednesday evenings have helped to shape this, still in progress at the time of this writing. Wrapped in enriching, nutritious, and abundant evening meals, we have allowed the Beatitudes and Stations of the Cross to guide us during five weeks of food and reflection. At the moment of this writing, we are getting ready to engage in the last stage of this significant pilgrimage, also known as Holy Week. I will tell you more about this in our next issue.

I am glad to have been invited to the United Methodist Women's Annual Continental Breakfast on March 14. It was an not only honor to have offered the invocation and blessing for the food and then indulged my appetite with so many desserts, but I also had the opportunity to chat with some our members, as well as members of my former parish in Franklin Square. When I left, the guest speaker, the Rev. Louise Stowe-Johns from the First United Methodist Church in Amityville, was addressing a crowd of about 50 plus women from several Methodist churches. Great event!

Finally, the eight children who have been taking the confirmation classes are approaching the last part of their formation process for confirmation. At the end of this process, they will have finished a one or two paragraph faith statement that will be shared with the congregation at the confirmation service in April. I hope all of you will make an effort to be present and support them in this important stage in their lives.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Rafael Garcia



Sunshine Column

APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



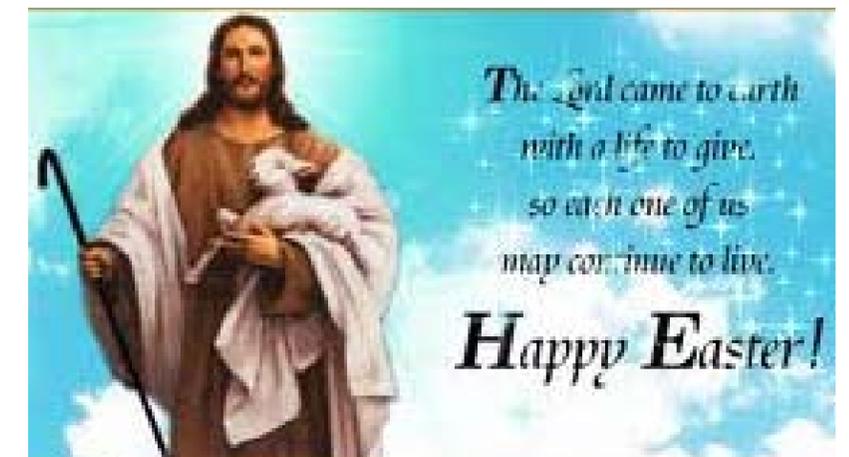
Candace Bahr
 Ann Corrie
 Tashana Samuels
 Cathy Schuyler
 Marcia King
 Tileyah Williams
 Jennie Connolly
 Hazel Gooding
 Martha Wright
 Wayne Redman
 Rubia Rivas
 Mary Canty
 Leslie Bobb
 Ava Daley
 Samuel Minto
 Ryan Dwyer
 Stephanie Brown
 Jordan McCullers
 Robert Corrie
 Edward Angus
 Claude Pierre-Louis



April 1st
 April 2nd
 April 6th
 April 6th
 April 8th
 April 14th
 April 14th
 April 15th
 April 15th
 April 17th
 April 18th
 April 20th
 April 20th
 April 22nd
 April 23rd
 April 25th
 April 29th
 April 29th
 April 30th
 April 30th



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - MARCH 14TH



PARISH NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit all information (articles, announcements, photos) about events, committee/ministries news, and other information that you can share with our church family to: hempsteadumc@gmail.com, or drop them off in the church office by May 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the last week of April. Thank you!

If you are new to the church and wish to become a member, please see Pastor.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:30 AM Bible Study
 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM Morning Worship
 (Social Hour to Follow)
 After service, Sounds of Praise Choir Rehearsal
 (5-11 years old)

Sunday: Service in Spanish, 12:30 PM

Thursday: 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday: 8:00 PM Youth Fellowship
 (Alternate Fridays)



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At the UMW Continental Breakfast, Pastor Rafael Garcia gave the opening prayer and the blessing of the food. Our guest speaker, Rev. Louise Stowe-Johns, First Methodist Church of Amityville, spoke on women's health with an emphasis on exercise. She involved the attendees in a moderate exercise and continued to speak on issues dealing with the importance of taking care of your body and mind. Rev. Stowe-Johns' message was well-received by attendees, and there were individuals who attested to the benefit of exercise in their life. At the

conclusion of Rev. Stowe-Johns' presentation, she informed us that she will be retiring in June and moving to Virginia. She will be sorely missed and she was well wished on her upcoming retirement. We thank Ms. Grace Brammer for taking pictures at the event; we are also grateful to those who brought cans and boxed food to be distributed to the Long Island Food Bank. Kudos to the UMW who prepared the delicious food served at the breakfast. We concluded with a prayer and wished everyone a safe journey home.

- Jackie Morgan



Photos, courtesy of Grace Brammer.



April Calendar - Save the Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Good Friday Service, 12 Noon - 3 pm	4 Holy Saturday
5 Easter Sunrise service, 6:30 a.m Chapel Easter Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Youth Fellowship	18 Board of Trustees, 9:00 a.m.
19 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	20 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23	24	25
26 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	27 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	28	29	30		

Notes and News

- ⇒ If you have an article to share for our next issue, please send it to Karen (with a photo) in the Church office or email it to: hempsteadumc@gmail.com. Thank you!
- ⇒ You will now be able to view events/important dates on our church calendar by visiting www.umchempstead.org; open the site and click on the link for Calendar/Events.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATES OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

This year, our church family celebrated Black History month on Sunday, February 22nd with a memorable worship service presided by **Rev. Dr. Derrick Lewis Noble** of NYAC.

Rev. Noble gave an inspirational sermon that focused on Black History heroes and others who impacted the past and paved the way for a better future. Highlights from the afternoon included entertainment by the talented dancers from Calvary Tabernacle Church, as well as the singers from the Calvary Tabernacle Choir.

Photos, courtesy of Chrystelle Gooding.

