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The Parish News (USPS 421-140)
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,
40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550
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December 2014 / Editor and Art Director, Karen Bonnet

"Moments Of Gratitude"

Moments of gratitude can be found by
recalling instances when:
Sorrow was turned into Joy
Hatred into Love
Doubt into Belief
Sickness to healing
Hunger to being Filled
Revenge to Forgiveness
War to Peace
Homelessness to being Sheltered
Loneliness to Friendship

Some Biblical Moments of Gratitude
were found in:—

Only one of the ten lepers cleansed
The Wedding Host who drank the water
which was turned into wine
Blind Bartimaeus, whose sight was
restored after crying out to Jesus
Naaman the leper, after dipping the
seventh time in the river Jordan
Elijah in the wilderness who was fed
by ravens
Ruth, acknowledging how much Naomi
meant to her, by clinging to her
Mary and Martha, after receiving their
brother Lazarus back from the dead

For each of us, gratitude should be the
knowledge of God --Loving the world so
much, that He gave His only son to die
for us.

Each moment of every day offers us
opportunities --For gratitude, and to
Glorify God.

I'll be looking for an opportunity ...
WILL YOU?

J. Wellington - Nov. / 2014



UMW Church Fair Volunteers Enjoy Lunch Together After Working On the Fair

Pictured, (L-R): Mary Johnson, Louise Josephson, Ann Turner, Janice LaLumia, Jackie Morgan, Julia Ross, Jean Bearak, Elsie Nickoloff, Dot Zondag, Miriam Harris, and Cathy Bahr.



DECEMBER 2014

VOLUME 75-No. 54

REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



The month of November in our church brought a great deal of activities that included the stewardship campaign to raise funds for our ministry in this place and beyond. The powerful testimonies of Royston Bailey, Jackie Morgan, and Claude Gooding during the month made the congregation aware of the power of giving and generosity, in a framework of trust in God's presence in our lives. All this was transformed into a great celebration on Stewardship/Harvest Sunday.

Pearl Miles, the chairperson of the Stewardship Committee, reminded us of the meaning of stewardship and our responsibility to support this ministry that needs our presence, service, time, and pledges. In this spirit, we were invited to prayerfully consider our 2015 Christian Stewardship Commitment with grateful hearts for the countless bounties and blessings God has bestowed upon us through our journey.

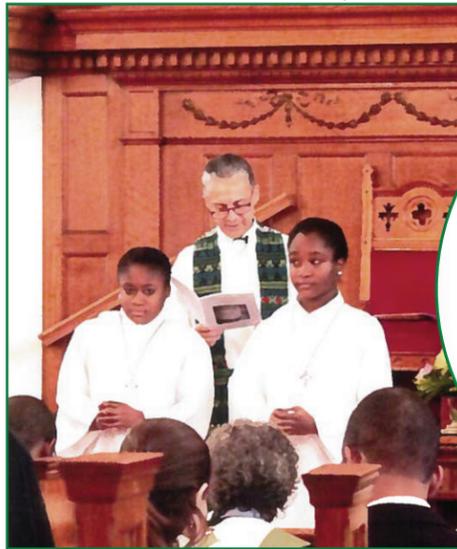
For the Harvest celebration, several members of our church, led by Liz Johnson, took on the task of decorating the church in a way that reminded us how blessed the human family is. Several bags of fruits and vegetables were fixed and distributed in a tradition of compassion for those in need. The hope is that the symbolic meaning of this ritual can move us to perceive the realities of abundance and need, and the importance of responding with an attitude of compassion and care.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to offer, on behalf of me and my family, the best thoughts and feelings as you prepare for the celebrations of Advent and Christmas. I hope you will take every opportunity to remind yourself and others that the only way to save the world God loves so much, is by engaging every person we meet in our journey in the great project of God's grace and compassion.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Rafael Garcia



NEW ACOLYTES JOIN MINISTRY AT UMC OF HEMPSTEAD



Two new Acolytes, **Charlene** and **Emily Brew**, were consecrated at the October 12th Worship Service. "We hope that as they engage in this important ministry, their lives be enriched and their faith strengthened," said Rev. Garcia. (Photo, courtesy of Grace Brammer.) Pictured above (middle): *Charlene and Emily Brew, with Lucy Brew.*



HOLIDAY GIFTS, JEWELRY, HOUSEWARES, FRESH BAKED GOODS AND VEGETABLES!



The Annual Church Fair drew many people from the community who had the opportunity to purchase beautiful holiday gift items, jewelry, fine housewares, fresh baked goods and vegetables, and so much more! Many thanks to all of our donors, and volunteers... your generosity and time was greatly appreciated and contributed to a successful fundraiser. This year's Church Fair netted more than \$2,000.

CHURCH NEWS and Notes



Thank you to all of the wonderful bakers who donated so generously for our bake table at our Fair. Your generous gifts help us to carry on our Mission's work.

- *Miriam Harris, UMW Secretary*

Longtime member, Bob Corrie, died on Friday, October 17, 2014. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to his wife, Ann, and family at: The Corrie Family, 3017 Spotswood Cay, Williamsburg Landing, Williamsburg, VA 23185



The **United Methodist Women** cordially invite you to attend their **Christmas lunch** on Tuesday, **December 16, 2014** at the **Pompei Restaurant**, 401 Hempstead Avenue, West Hempstead, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$28.00 per person. There will be a sign-up sheet on Sunday, Nov. 23, 30, and Dec. 7 in the gym.



In the New Year, 2015, the Trustees will be going through every closet, cupboard, nook and cranny in the church to organize and remove items no longer needed. If you, your committee/commission have supplies, please label. If an area for your supplies is needed, please let the Trustees know. The time is now to go through your things, organize, and label. Don't assume the Trustees will know what belongs to who; if not labeled, items will be removed or stored in a place where you won't find it. Things need to be labeled by Jan. 19th - after that, the Trustees will decide. The building is very old; it's time for a complete clean out. There is much work to be done in and around our buildings. A list has been made and estimates are being obtained; the list will be published and plans for a Capital Funds Campaign will be formulated.

- *The Trustees*

On **Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014**, in celebration of the Advent season, the UM church family is asked to bring a wrapped toy for a child. For many years, it has been a tradition of the church to wrap the gift in white (tissue or other) and should be marked whether it is for a boy or a girl. Please also include the appropriate child age of the toy. The gifts will be distributed by the L.I. Council of Churches to underprivileged children. Your thoughtfulness and kindness will help give a child a brighter Christmas. Thank you.

- *United Methodist Women*





CHURCH FAIR 2014



Save the Dates - December 2014

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WED. | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Youth Fellowship | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Sunday School Christmas Pageant UMW White Christmas (toys for children for Christmas) | 15 Collection and distribution of Christmas cookies Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m. | 16 UMW Christmas lunch, Pompei Restaurant, 12-3 p.m. | 17 | 18 | 19 Youth Fellowship | 20 |
| 21 Lessons on Carols | 22 | 23 | 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 p.m. | 25 Merry Christmas! | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Church Conference, 7:00 p.m. | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve Service, 11 p.m. with Rev. Elizabeth Williams | | | |
| | | | | | | |





THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF HEMPSTEAD—THEN AND NOW

When the ladies of the UMW of Hempstead United Methodist Church are together, it's plain to see that they have great respect and affection for each other. Some of the women have been members of the UMW for decades, and formed close bonds over the years. Two UMW Circles grew out of the UMW of Hempstead; the Judith and Esther Circles. Before these circles were launched, earlier Circles were in existence where members met in camaraderie, sharing their spiritual gifts and themselves. The tradition has continued today—in the 21st century.

Eighty-five year-old **Louise Josephson** is a member of the UMW of Hempstead for close to 50 years. She recalls that the women used to meet in homes years ago. "There were day and night circles," said Louise. "I was part of the Pheobe Circle, a group of 10 women. I used to put the kids in the car for Sunday School in Merrick, and then drive here for church." She added that the UMW has become part of her social and religious life, and has made her many friends.

Cathy Bahr joined the Rachel Circle in 1970 and knew few of the church members, but after she joined the UMW and the Circle, she was delighted to get to know so many people. "Many were senior members and it was wonderful experience to get to know them – I was the kid in the circle!" said Cathy, smiling broadly.

Forty-one years ago, **Pat Scholz** became a member of the Rachel Circle; she stayed active until about 15 years ago, she said. At the time, the Rachel Circle counted 18 members. "I made many wonderful friends who were long-time members of the church. Ellen Hobart, a great mentor and teacher, was a wonderful woman who helped my son when he started college," explained Pat. "She was very active in this church until she moved to Maryland." Pat also remembers when members started a book club at the church and met in the Parlor; there were about 12 church members who brought books. "Everyone brought a different book and would exchange them with each other. We talked about the books—and about everything else too!"

History of the UMW – Across the Nation 1869: Six Members Today: More than 800,000 members

United Methodist Women has a 140-year legacy, which began when the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society first organized in Boston in response to a lack of women's health in India. At that time, a group of six women formed a group who changed the course of history.

The continuing journey of women in mission led to the founding of various organizations whose purpose was to send missionaries to countries in need, and in support of many different projects.

In 1879, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church was founded; and in 1884, the Woman's Missionary Society was organized in the Evangelical Association. These groups became powerful, independent women's organizations, sending hundreds of missionaries all over the world to help with life-changing projects.

The Ladies Aid Societies, which had existed for many years, were incorporated into the missionary societies in the 1940s. Through reorganization and mergers, these groups were brought together. In 1973, United Methodist Women became the women's mission organization of The United Methodist Church and continues into the 21st century.

The purpose and mission of the UMW is as follows: "United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

- Contributed by Karen Bonnet



AN INSPIRATIONAL SEND-OFF

I had the opportunity to worship at the Ghana United Methodist Church in the Bronx months ago. It was a dedication service for ten volunteers—in a Mission to Ghana, and a celebration of Rev. and Mrs. Nketsia's 25th wedding anniversary.

Although it was the last Sunday in August, the atmosphere was like an Easter Service; the church was crowded, the Ghanaian men and women dressed in their traditional Kente cloth, and the 16-member choir sang like there were a hundred voices. The congregation danced and waved their white handkerchiefs, and the feeling of God's love and blessings flowed through the congregation.

Rev. Victoria Keito, Rev. Ewoodzie, and Dr. Claude Gooding conducted the service.

Rev. Ewoodzie, Director of NYAC Mission and Outreach, gave a brief overview of the mission to Ghana.

Dr. Claude Gooding, NYAC Director of Connectional Ministries, performed the litany rites – prayer, intercession, and a "flashlight" presentation, a symbol of the "light of the world," to the volunteers traveling to Ghana.

Rev. Samuel Nketsia and his wife solemnly renewed their marriage vows after the litany, before dancing around the church with relatives and friends. Indeed, it was a celebration of love and happiness.

Rev. Dixon and the youth also shared their talents with us; saxophone skills with melodious voices.

Then came the climax—the message. The dynamic Rev. Derrick Lewis-Noble, Director of NYAC Congregational Development and Revitalization, gave a very soul-searching message based on Plea, Practice, Preparation, and Prescription.

Despite the language barrier, insufficient hymnals (cell phones came in handy) and the time of the night, everyone was awake and lively throughout the three-hour long service.

At the end of the service, there was no supper, and no need for it, as we were all spiritually filled. All participants had an uplifting send-off service for a very exciting mission trip.

- Sarian Parker





THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND LUNCHEON GENERATES FUNDS FOR THE EBOLA PROJECT

The **Third International Service and Luncheon** was held on Sunday, October 26th—it was well-attended, as well as a memorable occasion. The theme of the event, “Climate Change and Responsibility as Disciples of Christ,” was further enhanced by the thought-provoking and humorous stories shared by keynote speaker, **Susan S. Kim**, President of the NYAC UMW. Delicious meals of various ethnicities were prepared by volunteers, and many of our own church members assisted during the luncheon, ensuring everyone sampled the savory dishes.

The International Luncheon is an annual fundraiser organized by the UMC of Hempstead and the Freetown Secondary School for Girls (FSSG) Ex-Pupils Association. This year, nearly \$1,500.00 was raised to support the Ebola project. Many thanks to everyone who attended and supported this worthy project.



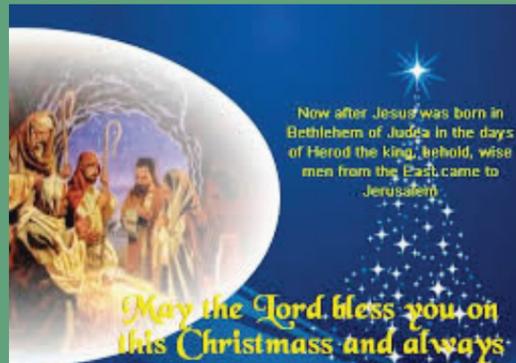


Sunshine Column

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Lance Koplitz | December 2nd |
| Melissa Ramsey | December 7th |
| Rosa Bishop | December 7th |
| Christine Thomson | December 10th |
| Frederick Draudt | December 10th |
| Grace Brammer | December 10th |
| Claudia Byam | December 12th |
| Joe Josephson | December 14th |
| James Scantlebury | December 16th |
| Jonathan McCullers | December 17th |
| Raymond Gomes | December 20th |
| Nicole Clarke | December 22nd |
| Soibhan Daley | December 22nd |
| Bea Draudt | December 22nd |
| George Alexander | December 23rd |
| Natasha Davidson | December 24th |
| Kristoff Bishop | December 26th |
| Rick Edwards | December 29th |
| Shaneda Alfred | December 29th |
| Natalie Delpratt | December 30th |
| William Smith | December 31st |



If your birthday is not on the list, please see Celeste Walwyn, Karen Bonnet, or Mary Johnson

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 January 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the last week of December -- and each last week of the month thereafter. 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)



UM WOMEN'S MINISTRY - PAST AND PRESENT



Pictured Left: The UMW Rachel Circle in the 1980s.

Photo, courtesy of Pat Scholz



Pictured Right: The UMW Rachel Circle in late 1990s.

Photo, courtesy of Pat Scholz



Pictured Left: The UMW Judith Circle—present day (2014) with (sitting, L to R) Louise Josephson, Janice LaLumia, Pat Scholz, and (standing, L to R), Julia Ross, Miriam Richards, Cathy Bahr, Jean Bearak, and Mary Johnson.