

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead
"Parish News" at 40 Washington Street,
Hempstead, NY 11550
Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold

The Parish News (USPS 421-140)
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,
40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550
Telephone: 516-485-6363 Fax: 516-485-4803

February 2015 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



CHURCH NEWS and Notes

In 2014, the church received \$553.67 through the Gratitude boxes and Advent boxes, in which people put their coins and extra dollars. The money went into the current funds to help support the ministries of the church. Thank you!

The gold capital funds envelopes found in the offering boxes brought in \$8,156.00 in 2014. These funds are used to help make the many repairs of our wonderful buildings.

Thus far, the church received 57 pledges to help plan the 2015 budget. Not everyone pledges but many are faithful givers. The 2015 offering envelopes were distributed in December. If you did not receive it and would like a box of offering envelopes (you don't have to be a member) to keep track of your giving for tax purposes, please contact the church office, 516-485-6363, or Mary Johnson, Financial Secretary, 516-481-5548. There are boxes available for the asking.

- Jean Bearak

SAVE THE DATE! The UMC of Hempstead's **Annual Black History Month celebration is on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, 4:00 p.m.** "Honoring our Past, Present and Future." Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, NYAC. Guest participants: Calvary Tabernacle Choir; Nadia Bucknor, vocalist; and the United Methodist Youth.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner: The Spaghetti Dinner will be held on **Saturday, February 7th, at 6:30 pm.** Enjoy an early Valentine celebration or just a family night out. Tickets (\$15.00, adults/\$8.00, children) can be purchased or reservations made during coffee hour.
- Garydiane Morrison

Pajama Drive For Abused Women: Beginning on Sunday, February 8, 2015 through March 8, 2015, we are asking your assistance, once again, in providing pajamas for the women residing in the shelter operated by the Safe Center of LI (previously, the Nassau County Coalition of Domestic Violence). Many of these women, some with children, have had to leave their homes with only the clothes on their backs, seeking a safe haven. It is through individuals like you that we can continue to make a difference in their lives. (All sizes are needed). There will be a box in the Narthex for the collection of the pajamas. Thank you, on behalf of the UMW.
- Jackie Morgan

The L.I. District is offering training on **February 14th at Westbury UMC, 8:15-2:30 p.m.**; it includes lunch. This is an opportunity to learn about a new job you are starting, more information on a job you are currently in; and for those who would like to learn more about the United Methodist Church. You can attend two workshops, some offered are: "Bible Origins," "Church Council," "Christian Conferencing," "Healing Ministry," "Role for the Lay Servant," Trustees," "Missions," and more. If you are interested, let the church office know so the District is informed about how many are attending from our church. - Jean Bearak



FEBRUARY 2015

VOLUME 76-No. 56

REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



The last stage of 2014 and the early journey into 2015 have brought sadness to several families of our parish. Let me use this means to offer our church's condolences to George Knight, whose father, Lemuel Knight, passed away last December in Barbados, West Indies. Our hearts also go out to Claudette Powell and her family for the passing of her step-mother, Mrs. Mavis Campbell, in London, England this past December. And finally, we share the pain of the Blake family for the loss of Mabel Blake, a long-time member of our church, who left us on January 15th of this year. We ask God to grant all of them peace, love, and comfort in this difficult journey of healing.

In the tradition of justice and peace, the Committee on Religion and Race organized the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Sunday, January 18. The Rev. Cecil B. Stone, who pastors the Springfield Gardens and the Hanson Place Central United Methodist Churches, invited us through his message to keep extending the much-needed work that Dr. King began during the Civil Rights movement years to our present day society. We were delighted to witness the participation of some of our youth who displayed their wonderful musical skills during this meaningful celebration. As we continue to move forward, let us put into perspective the importance of this celebration, which reflects a collection of struggles for justice and peace in the history of our country. It is significant that our children be engaged in this commemoration, not just for the sake of maintaining a tradition, but to keep alive the memory of Dr. King's struggles for

human dignity in order to help our country from falling again into the abyss of racism, violence, and war.

Finally, the Outreach Committee met on the last Sunday in January to organize the much-needed soup kitchen ministry in our community. I am glad to announce that if everything falls into place as planned, our first hot meals will be served on Saturday, April 25 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. After this first opportunity to serve the community, our goal is to continue offering hot meals to 150 persons every month of the year. We hope to engage every member and group of our church in this ministry, including the Hispanic group, as well as community groups and businesses. We believe this ministry will not only give us a chance to feed the hungry in our community but also to establish new relationships with community organizations and businesses.

Ultimately, we hope this ministry of compassion, combined with ministries for social justice, will give us a sense that proclaiming the core message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God, means to love the people God loves so much through deeds of charity and justice.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Rafael Garcia



HEMPSTEAD UMC CHOIR MEMBERS ATTEND A FESTIVE LUNCHEON

The UMC of Hempstead choir members started the New Year off with a lovely choir luncheon at Davenport Press on Sunday, January 4, 2015, courtesy of Choir Director, **Kevin Gray**. The following choir members (and some of their spouses) attended the festive occasion:



Photo Caption: Pictured above, (L-R): Clovine Leacock, Janice Wellington, Marilyn Harris, and Beatrice McLeod. Photo, (above) courtesy of Jim Ross.

Mary Johnson, Julia and Jim Ross, Myrlene Germain, Linda Guggino, Roy Bailey, Marilyn Harris, Janice Wellington, Clovine Leacock, Bill Fullard, Josephone Smith and Dr. William Smith, Mabel Blake, Miriam Richards, Duncan and Marcia Chase, and Beatrice McLeod.



Photo Caption: Pictured above, (L-R): First Row, Linda Guggino, Clovine Leacock, Marilyn Harris, Beatrice McLeod, Miriam Richards, Janice Wellington, Myrlene Germain, Mary Johnson. Second Row, Mabel Blake, Dr. William Smith, Dunchan Chase, Jeff Chase, and Jim Ross. Third Row, Kevin Gray, Choir Director.



Sunshine Column

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Patrick Thomson | February 3 | Marilyn Harris | February 17 |
| Irv Marsland | February 4 | Shirley Brown | February 18 |
| Ann Hunter | February 4 | Jackie Morgan | February 18 |
| Daniella Johnson | February 6 | Celeste Walwyn | February 6 |
| Ruth Robinson | February 20 | | |
| Jean Bearak | February 9 | Roger Eastman | February 21 |
| Louise Josephson | February 10 | June Curtis | February 21 |
| Aniqua Garrison | February 10 | Shari Bailey | February 23 |
| Alexis Redman | February 10 | Norman Brown | February 24 |
| Chelsea Redman | February 10 | Daniella Dwyer | February 24 |
| Xavyer Thomson | February 11 | Clifford Brown | February 26 |
| Dorothy Zondag | February 13 | Natalie Moran | February 26 |
| Miriam Harris | February 14 | Xavier Gooding | February 26 |
| Joseph Hall | February 16 | Stephen Samuel | February 28 |
| Paulette Brown | February 16 | Jon Lee | February 29 |



If your birthday is not on the list, please see Karen Bonnet, Lavern Thompson, 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 February 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the third week of March -- and each third 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)

MLK ECUMENICAL SERVICE - JANUARY 18, 2015

In tribute to the late **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, the congregation and invited guests took part in an Ecumenical worship service on Sunday, January 18th at the United Methodist Church of Hempstead. The keynote speaker, **Rev. Dr. Cecil Stone**, delivered a powerful message of faith, hope, and compassion.

Rev. Stone is the senior pastor at the Springfiled Gardens UMC where he has served for the last 22 years. He is also the senior pastor at the Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, where he has been serving the church community for the last six years.

Rev. Stone, who has been married for over 35 years to his faith partner, Carrol, has many accomplishments to his credit, and has been richly blessed by God throughout his ministry.



6 Photos, courtesy of Grace Brammer.

February Calendar - Save the Dates

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WED. | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---------------------|----------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Youth Fellowship | 7 Spaghetti Dinner, 6:30 p.m. |
| 8 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. | 9 | 10 UMW Exec. Board meeting, 10:30 a.m., (Parlor) followed by lunch, 12-2 p.m., gym | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 "Person to Person/Disciple to Disciple" - workshops at Westbury UMC 8:15-2:30 p.m. To register, call LI District Office at (631-366-2396) |
| 15 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. | 16 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m. President's Day | 17 | 18 Ash Wednesday | 19 | 20 Youth Fellowship | 21 Board of Trustees, 9 a.m. |
| 22 Bible Study, 8:30 am Black History Month Celebration, 4:00 p.m. | 23 Church Council, 7:30 p.m. | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |





ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD



The Annual New Year's Day Brunch was organized by many church members who planned, cooked, served, and provided musical entertainment for more than 120 guests. Everyone who attended shared a delicious meal and conversation, courtesy of the men, ladies and youngsters of the United Methodist Church of Hempstead.

Photos, courtesy of Grace Brammer.

