



THE PARISH NEWS


**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD**
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 Hempstead
 New York, 11550
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JANUARY 2016

VOLUME 76-NO. 65

REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR



Time is certainly an important element as we close cycles and begin new ones. It is an opportunity to assess our life journey experiences and see if our attitudes and behavior responded to our spiritual expectations. In this introspection, we need to display courage, honesty and the willingness to assume responsibility as the necessary requirements to move to a deeper consciousness.

As you engage in this significant spiritual exercise, I hope the new year offers you fresh opportunities to stay connected or reconnect with the source of grace and love.

The third and fourth Sunday of Advent presented an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the work of the Sunday School children and staff, and the gifts hidden in the voices of many of our women and men. A word of thanks to Ms. Shari Bailey, our Sunday School Superintendent, and Mr. Kevin Gray, our Choir Master, for inspiring and supporting those under their ministry.

In this spirit of seeing things with fresh eyes, I hope you have noticed that our church building has been enhanced with repairs and new painting. Some of you have already expressed joy and gratitude for this accomplishment after years of neglect. With your support and donations, we were able to cover the total cost of this project of \$66,400. However, we are not finished yet because the steeple is clearly demanding a fresh touch as well. We hope the new year will give us the resources to finish this job. The trustees are searching for contractors to estimate the cost. Once we have a clearer idea of the resources needed to repair and paint

the steeple, we will start working on a capital fundraising campaign. Please stay tuned!

We are currently working on a project that will help us reduce our energy and utility costs in a significant way. With the support of the City Society of the United Methodist Church and in partnership with BlocPower, a group of engineers has prepared a very specific plan of action to implement the recommendations of the energy assessment report performed last September. Even though this project will require about \$50,000, the good news is that with the savings it generates, it will pay for itself over a period of 10 years. I am very enthusiastic about this opportunity. Keep the trustees in your prayers! Finally, we have the surveillance system of 25 cameras in full operation. It works very well and gives us a better sense of security. We hope that once the intercom system is in place, which hopefully will happen before the 2015 year end, our building will offer all the groups using our facilities a better interaction with their clients.

As we wrap up the year, let me express from the bottom of my heart, wishes of joy and peace to each one of you and your families. Pray for your pastor and for our ministry that we find, in the daily tasks of ministry, ways to deepen our spirituality, individually and as a community.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Rafael Garcia



In the Spotlight

Chrystelle Gooding, Budding Young Artist

Chrystelle Gooding's self-portrait was one of several pieces of artwork from her school to be displayed at Barnes and Nobel Bookstore in Carle Place during the first week of December. While in middle school, the talented young lady won the Design-A-Card competition hosted by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese LI Chapter (AATSP) for three consecutive years. In 2012, she also was awarded a certificate of merit by the AAA for an outstanding traffic safety entry.

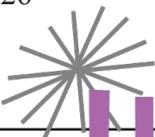
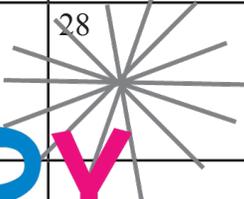
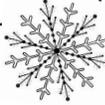
Chrystelle is the daughter of Dr. Claude Gooding, and his wife, Dr. Hazel Gooding, and sister to Xavier Gooding.



*Pictured (above, right):
Chrystelle Gooding with
her self portrait. The
artist's other winning
pieces are displayed on
the left and bottom right.*



January Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Year's Day Brunch 12:00	2
3 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 	15 Youth Fellowship	16 Trustees meeting, 9 am
17 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	18	19	20 	21	22	23
24 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	25 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	26 	27	28 	29	30
31 						

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

2015 In Review

With two weeks left in the year, thanks to all who took the extra step:

152 bags of food/paper goods have been delivered to LICC's Emergency Food Center in Freeport. The collection box is in the Social Hall at all times. Wouldn't it be great if everyone would bring one item every time they entered the church.

\$9,445.25 was received through the Capital Funds envelopes in the offering boxes. These funds are used to make repairs to our beautiful buildings.

Gratitude/Advent Boxed brought in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and even bills totaling \$355.42 deposited in the current funds to help with the Ministries of the church. These boxes can be brought in any-time and given to an usher; new ones can be picked up in a basket in the narthex.



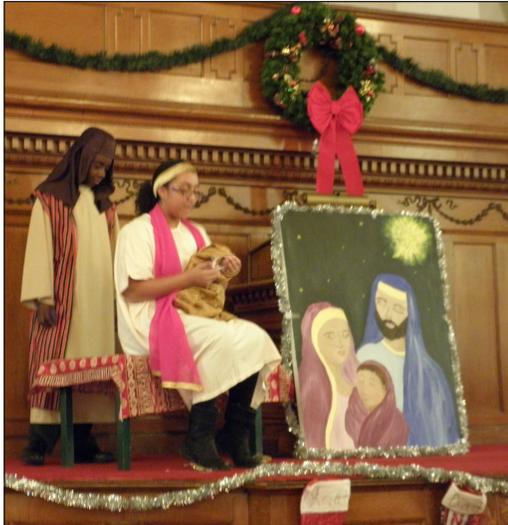
UMW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - DEC. 9





2015 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

PRESENTED BY
THE UMC OF HEMPSTEAD SUNDAY SCHOOL



On Sunday, Dec. 13, the Sunday School students of the UMC of Hempstead performed “Justin & Joy Journey to Bethlehem,” a Christmas Pageant written and directed by Sunday School Director, Shari Bailey. The following youth performed in the pageant: **Nadia Bucknor, Alex Benjamin, Zoe Gomes, Jordan McCullers, Chrystelle Gooding, Jeremy McKenzie, Jonathan McCullers, Ryan Dwyer, Kyle Pierre-Louis, Kayden Andall, Mekai Williams, Milan Williams, Nicole Dwyer, Josiah Angus, Lauren Maragh, Jasmine Graham, Shaniya Graham, and Kaylee Sievwright.** Many thanks to Teacher, **Michelle Samuel**, Soloist, **Nadia Bucknor**, Musician **Kevin Gray**, and Sound Technician, **Hugh Brown Sr.**, for their help with the program.



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.



LESSONS AND CAROLS – DEC. 20TH



*Pictured (above, left):
Jeremy McKenzie, Jonathan
McCullers, and
Jeremy Andall.*



*Pictured (above, middle):
Alex Benjamin.*



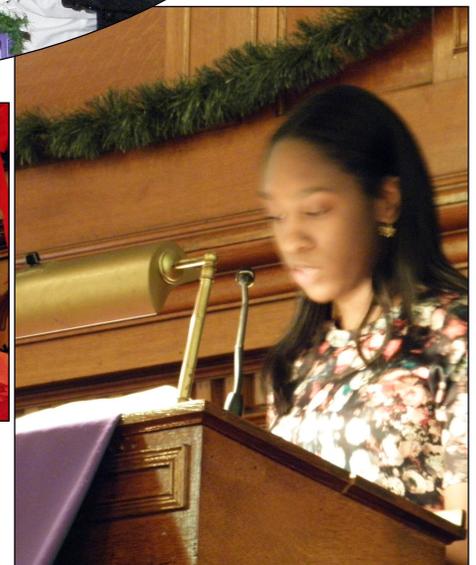
*Pictured (above, right):
Kevin Gray, Janice
Wellington, and
Meda Hill.*



*Pictured (right):
Rev. Rafael Garcia,
his wife, Madeline,
and their children,
Camilo, Oscar, and
Malcolm.*



*Pictured (left): Chrystelle Gooding.
Pictured (above): Jonathan
McCullers.
Pictured (right): Zoe Gomes.*



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.

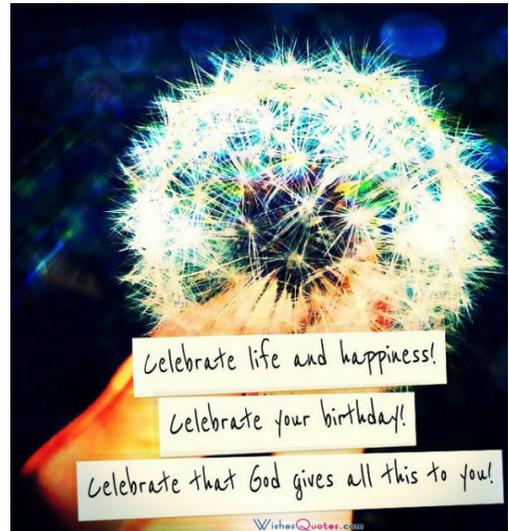


Sunshine Column



JANUARY BIRTHDAY LIST – HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sola Phillips	January 1st
Eileen Bailey	January 6th
Joel Onanuga	January 7th
John Onanuga	January 8th
Daniel Nwatu	January 10th
Lauren Koplitz	January 10th
Hougland Green	January 12th
Denise Edwards	January 13th
Tristin Bishop	January 15th
Alexis Nwatu	January 17th
Murielle Bernadotte	January 18th
Vahhon McCullers	January 18th
Wayne Hall Jr.	January 19th
Bianca Bailey	January 21st
Winston Robinson	January 22nd
Kenya Height	January 26th
Rose Lee Davis	January 28th



If your name is not on the list, please call Mary Johnson, Karen Bonnet or Lavern Thompson in the Church Office.



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 January.

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

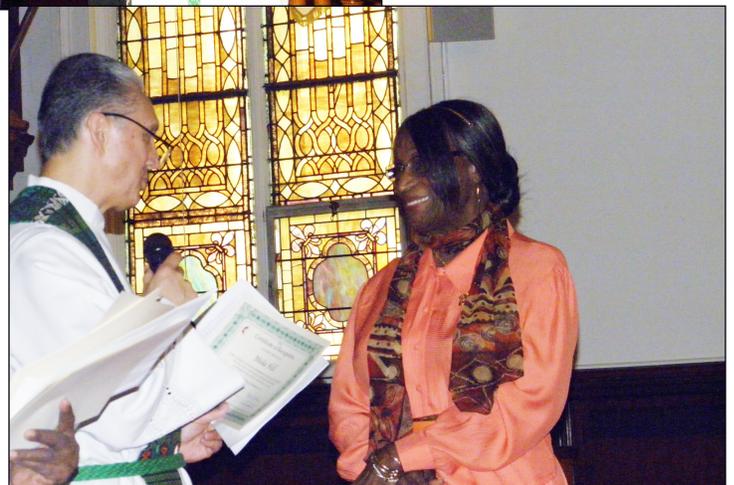
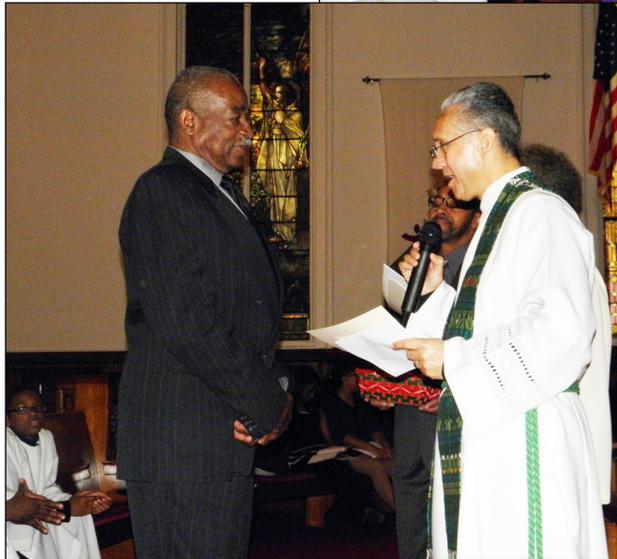
CHURCH SCHEDULE

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)

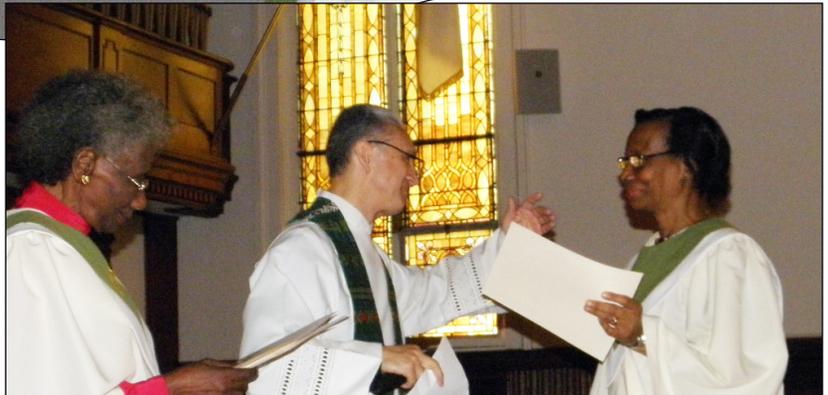
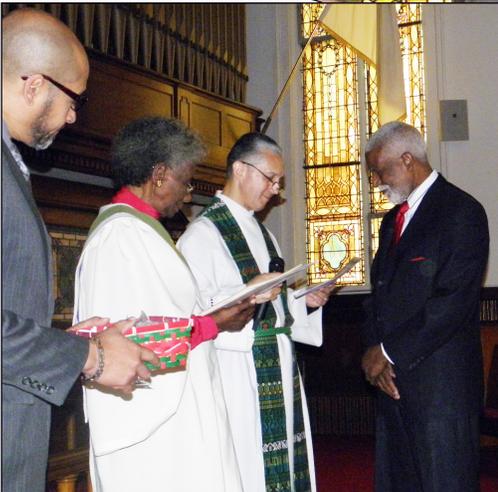
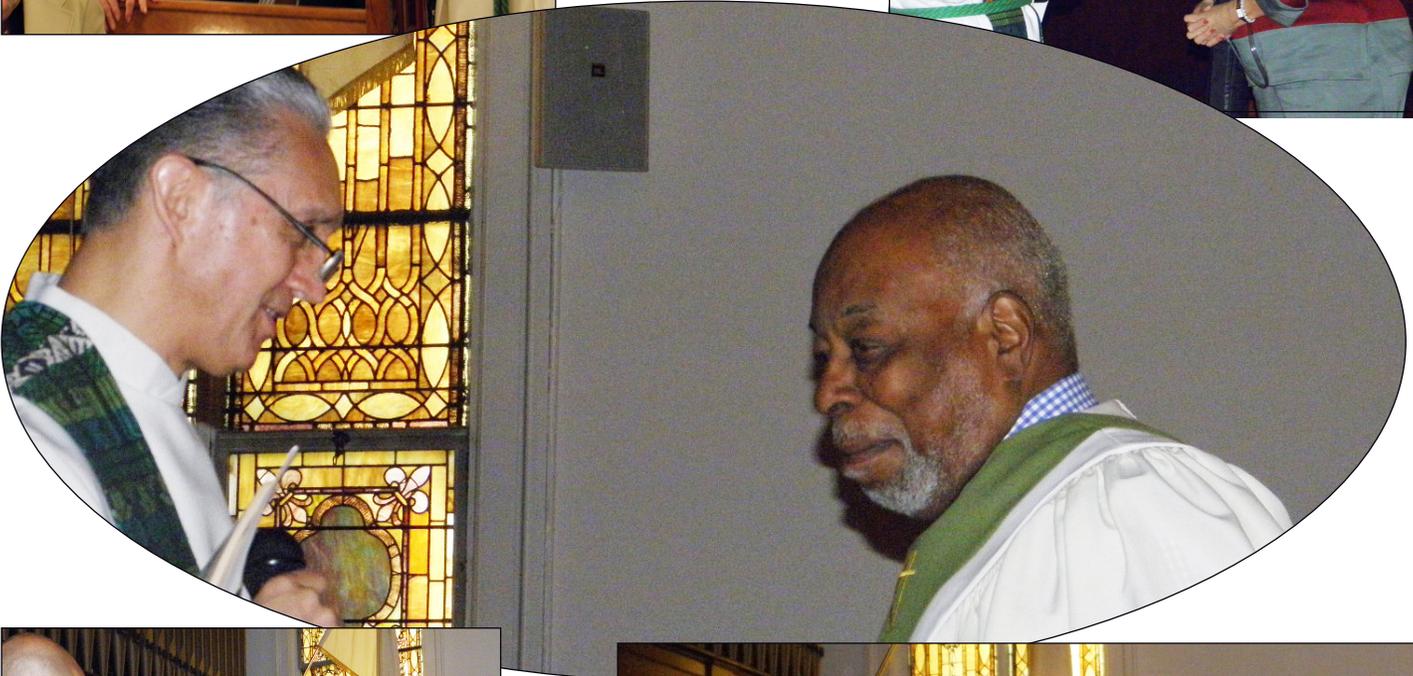


LOOKING BACK: MEMBER RECOGNITION SUNDAY





UMC OF HEMPSTEAD CELEBRATES OUR LONG-TIME MEMBERS



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.



HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

December



Pictured above (L to R): Volunteers, Mary Johnson, Judy Quinn, Royston Bailey, Ruth Robinson, Christine Thomson, Hugh Brown Sr., Leon Williams, Sarian Parker, Pauline Lewis, Chrystelle Gooding, Janice Wellington, Liz Johnson, and Candace Bahr.

Pictured below: (L to R): Volunteers, Candace Bahr, Zoe Gomes, and Chrystelle Gooding.



Pictured, right (L to R): Volunteer, Juliet Martin, and a brunch guest, David.



Pictured, bottom, right (L to R): Volunteers, Ruth Robinson, Christine Thomson, and Judy Quinn.





THE GIFT

**A SPECIAL 'GIFT' CAME TO EARTH AT CHRISTMAS
WRAPPED IN BANDS OF CLOTH
NO TINSEL, BRIGHT LIGHTS OR BALLOONS
PEACEFULLY SLEEPING IN THE ANIMAL'S TROUGH**

**WHAT KIND OF 'GIFT' COULD THIS BE
IN SO LOWLY A PLACE TO ABIDE
SURROUNDED BY MANY ANIMALS
POSSIBLY WITH THEIR EYES OPEN WIDE**

**THIS 'GIFT', THOUGH SMALL, WOULD BE GREAT TO ALL
BRINGING SALVATION TO US THAT'S FREE
MANKIND WOULD BE AMAZED, AND MIRACLES DISPLAYED
THROUGH THIS SPECIAL 'GIFT' THEY WOULD SOON SEE**

**THE 'GIFT' REFERRED TO IS CHRIST JESUS
HE'S THE SON OF GOD MOST HIGH
NO GREATER 'GIFT' THIS WORLD WOULD KNOW
THAN HIS LOVE, GRACE AND MERCY – NO MONEY CAN BUY**

**WHAT DOES THIS 'GIFT' NOW MEAN TO US
IN A SINFUL AND CARE-FREE WORLD
UN-WRAP YOUR GIFT! EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE!
IN YOUR HEART, MIND, AND YOUR SOUL**

**JANICE WELLINGTON
DECEMBER /2015**



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January 2016 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet

UMC OF HEMPSTEAD DONATES TOYS TO THE LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



During the month of December, the United Methodist Women of the UMC of Hempstead collected toys to give to families who can't buy toys for their children. Each year, the committee collects many toys; this December, 127 toys were collected due to the generosity of our congregation.

This year, the UMC of Hempstead assisted the Long Island Council of Church's "Christmas of Hope" project, a collaborative effort of the LICC, United Methodist Church of Hempstead, and the Bellmore Presbyterian Church. Through the efforts of these organizations, more than 55 families (with 175 children) were given toys, clothing, and food for the holidays.

Pictured above: Rev. Rafael Garcia, Yolanda Murray, Mary Johnson, and Pearl Miles-Lee at the LICC.