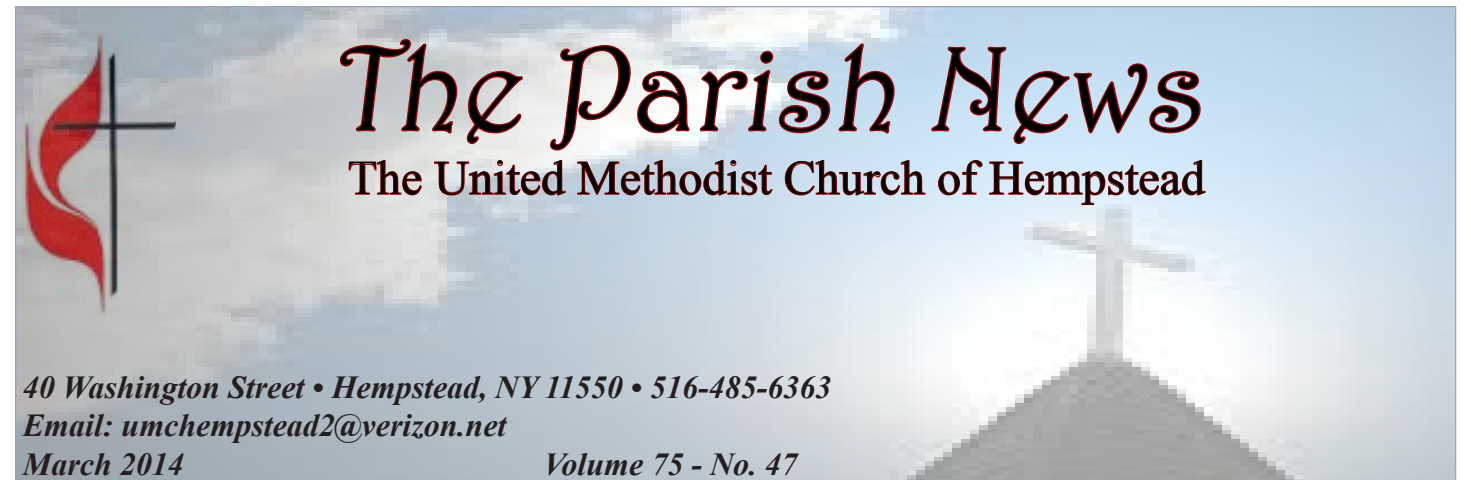


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March 2014



REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE HEALTH KIT CAMPAIGN 2014



The Church World Service campaign will begin Sunday, April 9, 2014 and extend through Sunday, April 20, 2014.

Health Kits provide the basic necessities in responding to the natural disasters and emergency situations here in the United States and around the world. (A table and basket will be in the Gym on Sundays for the deposit of your items and contributions.) Items to be included are listed below:

HEALTH KIT

**One hand towel • One washcloth • One comb • One nail clipper
One bar of soap (bath size) • One toothbrush • Six Band-Aids**

Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.
Processing/Shipping is \$2.00. Or, if you prefer, a donation of \$20.00 will allow
Church World Service to provide a health kit.

Packing day will be Monday, April 21, 2014 - We need volunteers to put the kits together.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Prayer-Action-Mission (P-A-M)

Annual UMC Long Island East District Youth Retreat at Camp Quinipet
May 9-11th

Arrive Friday, 7 p.m.; Leave Sunday, 1 p.m.

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH- 6TH GRADE AND UP

Youth Car Wash - Saturday, May 3rd !

At our leadership retreat this past March, we decided to restructure our Church Council in a way that we felt was going to help us meet our ministry goals. The previous structure—known as NOW for Nurture-Outreach-Witness—did not help the congregation to fully participate in the ministries of the church and failed to help accomplish the objectives of ministries at the time of its implementation. As a result, a different, although not new structure, was proposed; it will consolidate the administrative and ministries areas of the church. The administrative part will continue to carry the Committees on Finance and Stewardship; the Board of Trustees; the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee; and the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development. The Ministries dimension will consist of the following:

1. Missions and Social Concerns
2. Worship Committee with the following subcommittees:
 - a. Lectors
 - b. Alter Guilds A & B (Flowers/Deco. and Communion)
 - c. Music
 - d. Ushers

3. Women's Ministry
4. Men's Ministry
5. Young Adult/Higher Education/Scholarship
6. Membership/Evangelism/Communications
7. Race and Religion
8. Christian Education, Church School and Children's Ministry
9. Church History and Historic Preservation

With this new arrangement, we seek to motivate every member in our congregation to participate in the life and ministries of our church. In order to start nurturing your interest in helping to move our ministries forward, we will provide a description of the ministries' committees in our next issue of the newsletter. The hope is that each one of you will find an area where you feel you can contribute in order to make our ministries meaningful to you and our community.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Rafael Garcia

STATEMENTS BY BISHOP MARTIN MCLEE AND REVEREND DR. THOMAS OGLETREE

I am grateful to report that the matter concerning the Reverend Dr. Thomas W. Ogletree will not result in a church trial as a just resolution has been achieved. The just resolution provisions of the Book of Discipline are clear in voicing just resolution as the preferred response in Judicial Administration. Church trials produce no winners. While many insist on the trial procedure for many reasons, I offer that trials are not the way forward. Church trials disrupt annual conference life; they drain dedicated Episcopal and staff time. Church trials result in harmful polarization and continue the harm brought upon our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. The burdensome cost of

trials combine to negate any benefit in the ongoing debate on matters relating to human sexuality. As the Bishop of the New York Annual Conference, in consideration of my responsibility to provide spiritual, pastoral and temporal oversight for those committed to my care, I call for and commit to a cessation of church trials for conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions or performing same-gender wedding ceremonies and instead offer a process of theological, spiritual and ecclesiastical conversation. I understand that nothing in this agreement deprives any clergy person

UMW ANNUAL BREAKFAST IS A SUCCESS!

The UMW held their Annual Breakfast meeting on Saturday, March 15th. It was a delightful occasion that included 60 United Methodist women from churches across Long Island. The event was organized by members of the Hempstead UMW who decorated the tables with elegant tableware and linens, and provided delicious food for all attendees. The guest speaker, Anthony Zenkus, from the Safe Center of LI, spoke about the history of the struggles of women through the years to have lives free of violence. The Safe Center of LI was formed in the 1960's and is affiliated with the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The topic was chosen in honor of Women's History Month, designated in the month of March.



Pictured (above): Anthony Zenkus from the Safe Center of Long Island was the guest speaker at the UMW Annual Breakfast.

Note: More photos from this event to follow in the April issue of the Parish News.



Pictured (above): Jackie Morgan and Melvin Harris from the County Executive's Office, at the Annual Black History Month event.



Pictured (L to R): Reverend Lisa Williams, Karen Benjamin, Jackie Morgan, and Luis Figuerora (Trustee of the Village of Hempstead), during the Black History Month Celebration; UMC of Hempstead was presented with a citation from the Office of the County Executive.

Join Us For the 7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Hempstead UMC

- Featuring -

- Easter Eggs to Find
- Pancakes and Pictures with the Easter Bunny
- Face Painting - Tattoos
- Refreshments

12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM

SUNSHINE COLUMN/BIRTHDAYS

APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 2nd: Candace Bahr
 April 6th: Ann Corrie, Tashana Samuels
 April 8th: Marcia King
 March 9th: James Greene
 April 14th: Tileyah Williams,
 Jennie Connoly

April 15th: Hazel Gooding, Martha Wright
 April 17th: Wayne Redman
 April 18th: Rubia Rivas
 April 20th: Mary Canty,
 Leslie Bobb

April 22nd: Ava Daley
 April 23rd: Samuel Minto
 April 25th: Ryan Dwyer
 April 29th: Stephanie Brown,
 Jordan Mcullers,
 Robert Corrie

April 30th: Edward Angus,
 Claude Pierre-Louis,
 Rose Walker



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

SAVE THE DATE!

Financial Planning with a Christian Perspective
 Sow Seeds of Faith and Finance Seminar
 Sponsored by
 NY Annual Conference Adult Education Program

We need at least 20 families of the Hempstead UMC to sign up for this fabulous seminar offered by our Conference from a Christian stewardship perspective.

What is Christian Stewardship?

- GAIN all you can; SAVE all you can; GIVE all you can
- Recognize all life as a trust from God
- Responsible management of all God-given resources
- Dedicate a worthy portion of your time, abilities and money for the advancement of Christ's mission
- Giving is rewarding and enriches your soul
- Therefore we lead by example and it will be so:
"the more you give the more you receive."

Where: UMC of Hempstead
 When: Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m.

See Mrs. Pearl Miles for more information and/or to register

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: umchempstead2@verizon.net, or drop them off in the church office by April 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the third week of April -- 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 or Mary Johnson, Membership Secretary.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:20 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)



UMM New York Annual Conference
United Methodist Men
"Building Spiritually Fulfilled Men"

A Special Day of prayer

May 4, 2014 ~ 8:00 am

"For Spiritually Healthy Men's Groups: National, Jurisdiction, Conference, District, and Local"

To Be Held at Your Local Church Before Morning Worship



For information, contact Prayer Advocate, Earlwyn Benjamin at 718-991-6786 or email: Benjie49@optonline.net

- continued from page 1

of his or her constitutionally guaranteed right to a trial. In the next few months I will invite the Reverend Dr. Ogletree to join others from varying perspectives to a public forum on the true nature of the covenant that binds us together. Clearly there continues to be multiple perspectives on matters of human sexuality and the response of the church. While this forum may not resolve this ongoing challenge, it will provide an opportunity for healing and a chance for open and honest dialogue. God bless us all as we seek to be light and life in a time of theological challenge.

All my prayers,
Bishop Martin McLee

In recognition of Bishop Martin McLee's publicly stated intention to approach the matter of marriage equality in a non-judicial manner, but instead to offer a process of theological, spiritual and ecclesiastical reflection, I hereby relinquish my right to a trial on the charge that has been brought against me for officiating at a same gender wedding ceremony. I further agree to make myself available, health permitting, to participate in the above-mentioned Forum that Bishop McLee will convene.

Dr. Thomas W. Ogletree

Save the Dates - April 2014
Light Supper and Meditation during Lent, April 2nd and 9th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., organized by the committees and ministries mentioned below

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Lenten Reflection by Finance and Trustees	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Reflections with Seniors, 11 a.m. Lenten Reflection by The Hispanic Congregation	10	11	12 Easter Egg Hunt 12 Noon
13 Palm Sunday 10 a.m.	14	15	16	17 Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Holy Communion	18 Ecumenical Service at Uniondale UMC 12 Noon-3:00 p.m.	19
20 Sunrise Service with Holy Communion, 7 a.m. Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion, 10 a.m.	21 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m.	22 Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.	23 Reflections with Seniors, 11 a.m.	24	25	26
27	28 Church Council 7:30 p.m.	29	30	Happy Easter!		

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

The calendar says spring is here - it's about time. What a long, snowy winter we had. The church and parsonage were plowed 12 times totaling \$7,770.00 billed to the church. Thankfully, several parishioners generously donated a total of \$3,500.00 toward this bill, but with the church paying the balance, we are left with other bills that need to be paid. If you find you can give extra, it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Dot Zondag and Roger Tatem for providing the cake we enjoy at coffee hour, and Dani Dwyer for bringing in flavored creamers and the extra treats for the kids.

In addition, thank you to others who dropped off coffee, tea, sugar, punch, etc. These donations keep down the cost of coffee hour. Anything donated will be used with joy.



UMW JUDITH CIRCLE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE



The **Judith Circle**, a subdivision of the **United Methodist Women**, met on March 3rd to discuss plans for the remainder of the year. Members of the Judith Circle coordinate local missions to assist charitable organizations.

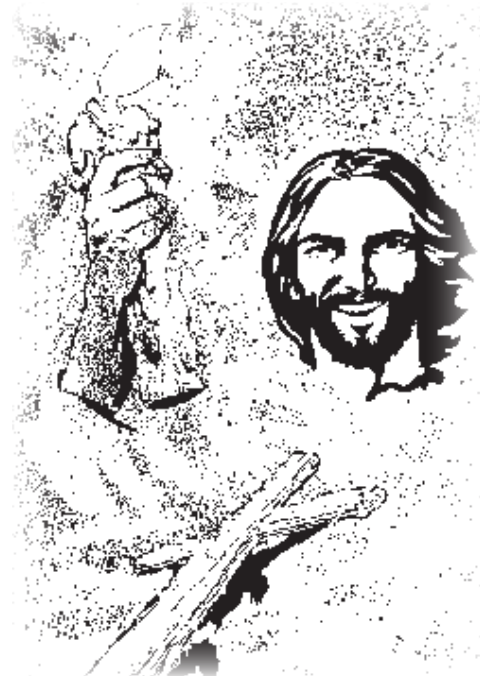
The **UMW** would like to thank the congregation for their donation of women's pajamas for the Safe Home operated by The Safe Center LI (formerly Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence). Through your continued generosity, this donation helps many women who have to leave their homes with only the clothes they are currently wearing. They are very appreciative of our donations.

United Methodist Women

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR LENT AND EASTER

Light supper and meditation every Wed. during Lent from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., organized by:

- **The Committee on Finance and Board of Trustees**, April 2nd.
- **The Hispanic Congregation**, April 9th
- Palm Sunday**, April 13th at 10 a.m.
- Holy Thursday**, April 17th at 7:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Good Friday Ecumenical Service** at Uniondale UMC, April 18th, 12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.
- Sunrise Service with Holy Communion**, April 20th at 7 a.m.
- Easter Sunday with Holy Communion**, April 20th at 10 a.m.



"A FRIEND, A CROSS, A SAVIOUR"

FRIENDSHIP comes in many forms
 It can be challenging too
 Christ walked this earth among sinners
 To be a *FRIEND*, to teach, heal and rule
 We thank Him for the meaning of 'Friendship'
 How to share with others less fortunate
 Christ's life was devoted to helping others
 A true testament for our 'sisters and brothers'
 A heavy *CROSS* Christ was made to carry -
 Through the streets with a jeering crowd
 He was stripped, whipped; -- He was bleeding
 As the multitude jeered and laughed out loud
 That sight must have been horrendous
 As Christ bore our grief and pain
 He knew the cross which he carried
 Would one day beckon our gain
 Through it all our future emerged
 With a story still worth telling to all
 That Christ *IS* our Lord and '*SAVIOUR*'
 A '*FRIEND*' to everyone... great and small
 Today that '*FRIEND*' ... He still exists
 Our '*CROSS*' He's still willing to bear
 For all who dares to step out in faith
 Our '*SAVIOUR*' promises to meet them there

*J. Wellington
 March/2014*

EASTER FLOWERS



If you wish to donate flowers, please complete this form and send it to Mrs. Julia Ross, 799 Planders Avenue, Uniondale, NY 11553, or bring it to the Church Office. Enclose a check for \$13.50 payable to the United Methodist Church of Hempstead. The deadline is Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014. No orders can be accepted after Coffee Hour that day. Thank you.

() In loving memory of OR () In honor of

Check one: () I do want the flowers () I do not want the flowers after Easter services.
 Please share them with the sick or homebound.