

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

May 2015 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



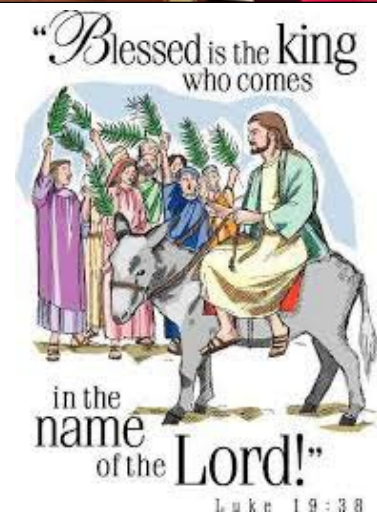
MAY 2015

VOLUME 76-No. 59

REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



PALM SUNDAY: A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



Photos, courtesy of Shari Bailey.

The celebrations of Holy Week have given way to the splendor of the Easter season. At the Hempstead Church, we had an enriching experience during our Easter celebration. The Sounds of Praise and the Chancel Choirs, along with the soloist, the Easter Trumpets, the poem, the liturgy, and every single person who attended the service made this celebration special and meaningful. My hope is that this Easter spirit will endure and keep the light of hope alive in each one of us as we continue our individual and collective journey through the rest of the year. With the supplies of my energy nearly depleted, I needed time to recharge, and had the opportunity to attend a District retreat in Bay Shore, L.I. During this time, those who attended this one-day retreat engaged in meditation, prayer, chants, as well as interpersonal activities that provided the environment for a spiritual and emotional recovery.

In this spirit, we were able to begin our much-needed program of hot meals for the community. The Outreach Committee had taken on the responsibility to organize this program and scheduled the opening date for April 25. Well, it materialized and I was impressed by the level of support provided by our members and friends on this first day of service. I was also impressed by the effort put forth in each detail, as well as the quality of interaction displayed with those who came seeking a warm meal. But at the same time, I was not surprised because this is what I had observed at the two New Year's Day brunches I had attended in the past.

There is no doubt that we still have a lot to learn, and I hope that with each opportunity, we will find a way to grow not only in the organizational and service aspects, but in our humanity and spirituality dimensions as well.

As we interact with those who are in need, not just of a meal, but maybe of a word of encouragement or an act of support, I am sure many opportunities will open before us to discover other realms of God that were hidden from our smaller worlds.

I do not want to end this reflection without mentioning my gratitude and joy for the Confirmation class. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to interact with this great group of eight children. Probably the one who learned more was the Pastor. I am so happy for the potential and future of our church. These children should give us great hope; however, let us not take this for granted. This means that our responsibility as a church must measure up to the expectations of these children. We do not want to disappoint them. Our task did not end at Confirmation Sunday. Together, we took an important step in maintaining our faithfulness to the tradition of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If we maintain this path of nurturing and support, and keep adding love and gratitude, I am pretty sure we will witness the full display of God's blessings before us.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Rafael Garcia



In the Spotlight



Ashlee Chung, who attends Walnut Street School in Uniondale, was one of three students chosen from her class to exhibit her art work at the Eleventh Annual Nassau All-County Art Exhibition. The Exhibition was held at Adelphi University on March 15, 2015.

The eight year-old budding artist is the granddaughter of Grace Brammer who is a long-standing member of the United Methodist Church of Hempstead.

“Ashlee loves art and has been doing a lot of painting. I am very proud of her,” said a smiling Grace Brammer.

Pictured (left): Ashlee Chung points to her winning art piece.

Photo, courtesy of Grace Brammer.



Candace Bahr celebrated a big birthday in April with family and friends. Candace helps in the church office; she does a great job and is very much appreciated. Happy Birthday, Candace!



Happy Birthday to our own Rubia, always a cheerful presence in the church building!



Sunshine Column

MAY BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Grace Brown
Bruce Tatem
Karen Benjamin
David Hancock
Yasmin Clarke
Vernon Ghullkie
Michelle Samuel
William Fullard
Bryan Bailey
Timothy Bishop
Wendy Persaud -Tyler
Lucy Wright-Brew
Claude Gooding
Abraham Brew
Chrystelle Ivana Gooding
Michael Williams
Nadine Brown
Dillon Bobb
Justin Bobb
Tamiya Bobb
Cathy Bahr
Elnora Brevard
Marion Czar
Nicole Davidson



May 1st
May 2nd
May 4th
May 6th
May 7th
May 8th
May 9th
May 11th
May 13th
May 14th
May 15th
May 16th
May 17th
May 18th
May 18th
May 19th
May 20th
May 22nd
May 22nd
May 22nd
May 24th
May 27th
May 29th
May 31st

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 May.

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)

UMW SANDWICH EXCHANGE



The United Methodist Women held their annual **Sandwich Exchange** on Tuesday, April 14th. The lovely ladies brought a variety of home-made sandwiches to share with each other, and enjoyed dessert and coffee after lunch.

Pictured left (L-R): Ann Hunter, Miriam Harris, and Jean Bearak.

Pictured below (L-R): Dot Zondag, Elnora Brevard, Garydiane Morrison, Jackie Morgan, Julia Ross, and Mary Johnson.



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Matthew 22:37-39

2015 CHURCH WORLD SERVICE HEALTH KIT CAMPAIGN

This year's Health Kit Campaign, organized by **Jennie Connolly**, collected items and cash from congregation members for the Health Kit campaign. Together with **Miriam Harris, Jean Bearak, and Dot Zondag**, the team of volunteers put together 115 health kits. These health kits provide the basic necessities in responding to natural disasters and emergencies in the U.S. and across the globe. Thank you to everyone who generously donated health kit items and cash.



May Calendar - Save the Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Youth Fellowship	2
3 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	4	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Mother's Day Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15 Youth Fellowship	16 Board of Trustees, 9:00 a.m.
17 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	18 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23
24 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						



EASTER EGG HUNT AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD



The excitement at the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** was contagious as children and their families had the opportunity to visit and take pictures with the Easter Bunny. They also had their faces painted, ate a delicious breakfast prepared and cooked by church members, participated in a race in the gym, found colorful, candy-laden Easter eggs on the church lawn, and won an assortment of great raffle prizes. The event was coordinated by **Pearl Miles-Lee** and her dedicated volunteers.

