



NOVEMBER 2015

VOLUME 76-No. 63

REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR



Greetings UMCH family. The Apostle Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians that “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it.” At the writing of these words, we are suffering with Miriam Richards and Samantha Alexander as they mourn the passing of husband and father, George. Let us keep them in our prayers and thoughts as they try to find consolation and peace in this difficult part of their journey. And while the death of George Richards saddens us, let me share the joy we had during the third Sunday in October when we baptized a three-month old baby, Nixon Barrington Foo, son of Dwayne and Ashley and grandchild of Margaret and Errol. We enjoyed the company of a nice group of relatives and friends that made this celebration indeed special. And as you can notice, life can take us within a few days from the joy of baptizing of a baby, reminding us of the beginning of life, to the grieving of a love one whose journey left remarkable memories of love, compassion, and generosity among relatives and a congregation.

The Hempstead Fellowship Brunch (HFB) offered for the sixth time this year a very delicious and healthy hot meal in the month of October. Since we began serving the community through this ministry, it is important to recognize the outstanding work of the Outreach Committee led by Mrs. Ruth Robinson. Their dedication and commitment has been a blessing for those persons and families who need these hot meals. Needless to say, the church accepts donation in cash. Anything that you can contribute towards this ministry will help us to keep feeding those who are hungry and in need of a warm community. On the Sunday after the HFB served around 60 persons, two of them attended our worship service. Even though our intention is not to exchange food for worship service attendance, it

is important to see that many of this people also need the spiritual food we are able to provide on Sundays. Some of you may have received a letter inviting you to be part of the November 15th worship service. The purpose of this activity is to recognize, honor, and celebrate those of you who have served our church for more than 25 years. That Sunday is also Youth Sunday and what a better way to acknowledge your great effort and commitment than with the younger generations and those who have become part of our family of faith in later years. I hope you will make every effort to be part of what we hope promise to be a memorable celebration.

Lastly, our building has finally been equipped with 24 cameras that have greatly improved the safety of all those who use the church’s facilities to serve the community in different forms, including, of course, our own congregation. Equally important, and as of the writing of this article, I am glad to report that the painting of the old building has begun; we hope this project will be completed by the second week of November. We are also working to reduce the energy consumption and costs of our buildings. We have already received an energy assessment report and are working with a group of engineers from BlocPower, a Department of Energy-supported Public Benefits Corporation, to come up with a very specific plan to address the recommendations of the energy assessment report. As you pray about all this, keep in mind that your financial support for all these endeavors is not only of ultimate importance, but also an investment in your spiritual life and the life of the United Methodist Church of Hempstead.

Peace.

Rev. Rafael Garcia



In the Spotlight

Miriam Harris joined the UMC of Hempstead in 1989 and is a proud member of our church for the past 26 years. Prior to joining the church community, she belonged to the Greenport United Methodist Church.

Greenport was Miriam's home for many years; it's the town where she grew up with her three brothers and two sisters. She fondly remembers her childhood—her mother was a Native American from the Shinnecock tribe in Long Island, and her father was born in Puerto Rico. The family made their home in Long Island. Miriam, who is 91 years young (and proud of it!), has lived her entire life in Long Island. In 1950, she married Edwin, her husband of 39 years. They were together until he died in 1989.

Her interest in dressmaking led her to the Traphagen School for fashion design in New York City where she studied all facets of dressmaking and design. "I made all my clothes, my family's clothes, and my friends' clothes," said Miriam. "I was always interested in arts and crafts, and painting too."

Eventually, Miriam began working for the U.S. Postal Service where she remained until her retirement in 1984.

Leading a full and active life, Miriam naturally became involved in some of the committees at the UMC of Hempstead. She was a member of the Social Concerns Committee, and then joined the UMW in 1990, a few years after she found this church. She was the Chair of the Esther Circle for five years, and remains active in this group.

One of Miriam's favorite memories at the UMC of Hempstead brings a smile to her face: "I really enjoyed being the Chairperson of the bake table at the annual Church Fair," she said. During this annual fundraising event, she managed sales, requested donations from people, and sold baked items on the day of the Fair.

Miriam Harris





November Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day, 10 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Flag Ceremony to Honor Veterans, 10 am Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	9	10	11	12	13	14 UMW Annual Church Fair, 9-2 pm
15 Member Recog- nition Sunday and Youth Sunday, 10 am Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	16 Finance Committee meeting, 7:30 pm	17	18	19	20 Youth Fellowship	21 Trustees meet- ing, 9 am
22 Harvest Sunday/ Stewardship Sunday Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	23 Church Council meeting, 7:30 pm	24 Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:30 pm	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28 Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11 am
29 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	30					

UMW Annual Christmas Fair

The United Methodist Women's Annual Christmas Fair will be held on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015, 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be homemade baked goods, fresh vegetables, pecans, assorted cheeses, gift items, Christmas decorations, an assortment of holiday memorabilia, and other items for purchase. For a nominal fee, come and join us for light refreshments in the parlor. - Jackie Morgan, UMW



ANNUAL FALL RUMMAGE SALE - OCT. 3, 2015



The Annual Fall Rummage Sale, held on Sat., October 3, was well-organized due to the outstanding efforts of volunteers from our church who contributed time, donations, and giving of themselves to ensure it was successful. This fund-raising event raised a total of \$1,981.00. Thank you to everyone who assisted- your help was greatly appreciated!





Annual
Fall
Rummage
Sale
Oct. 3rd



Followers

VERY OFTEN IN MY TRAVELS
I WITNESS FLOCKS OF BIRDS
THEY SOMETIMES CHIRP NOISILY
OTHER TIMES SILENTLY
ALMOST NOTHING IS HEARD

IT'S THEN I BEGIN TO WONDER
WATCHING AS THEY FLY BY
I'D QUESTION MYSELF OF THEIR MOTIVES
FLYING UP, DOWN, OR AROUND IN THE SKY

THEY SOMETIMES FLEW IN UNIFORMED MANNER
ONE IN FRONT - 'THE LEADER' - IT SEEMS
SERENELY THE OTHERS GLIDE BEHIND -
AS "FOLLOWERS." SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SCENE

I ESPECIALLY LIKE IT WHEN THEY REST
PERCHED HIGH UPON CABLE WIRES
WITH CLAWS GRIPPING AROUND THEM TIGHTLY
AS IF WAITING AND WANTING TO BE HIRED.

NOT EVERY ONE CAN BE A LEADER
SOME OF US SHOULD FOLLOWERS
THROUGH PRAYER AND INTENT
LISTENING
WE CAN FIND THE PLACE WE
OUGHT TO BE

WHO DO WE INTEND TO FOLLOW?
IN WHOM SHOULD WE CONFIDE?
WHERE IS OUR LIFE'S DESTINATION?
WE'LL FIND JESUS IS OUR VERY BEST GUIDE.



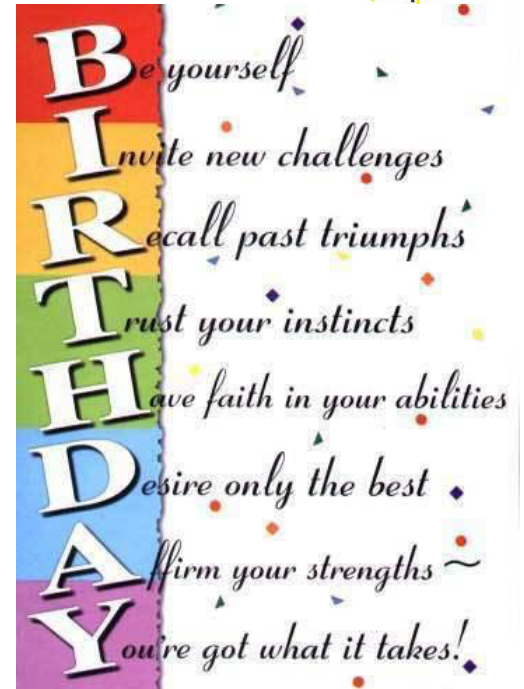
Sunshine Column

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Kyle Pierre Lewis
Jonathan Tyler
Elizabeth Williams
Kadarius Brown
Derrah Hall
Petal Scantlebury
Gem Lilly
Christian Gunzel
Adam Ross
Roger Tatem
Hugh Brown Jr.
Bibi Boucicaut
Bentley Bailey
Cathy Aziz
Garydiane Morrison

November 3rd
November 7th
November 11th
November 13th
November 13th
November 14th
November 15th
November 17th
November 17th
November 18th
November 21st
November 22nd
November 23rd
November 24th
November 26th



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 December 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the last week of December.

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)



VALERIE SMITH IS INAUGURATED AS FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESIDENT OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

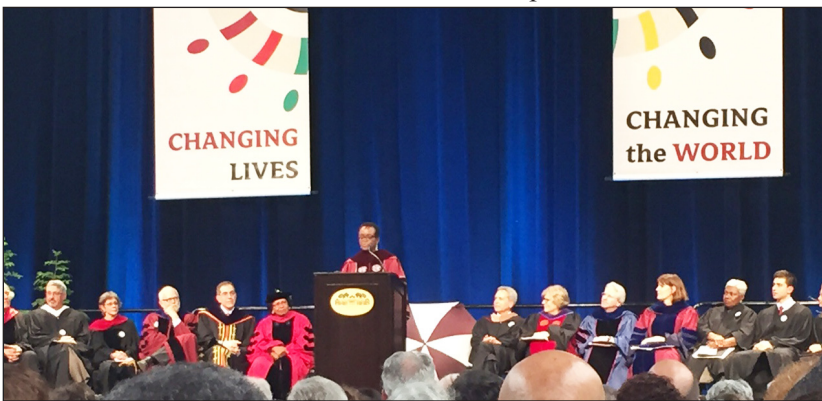
Valerie Smith, daughter of Dr. William R. Smith and Josephine Smith of the United Methodist Church of Hempstead, was recently inaugurated as the first African American president of Swarthmore College. During the inauguration, she was accompanied by her fellow presidential colleagues from Swarthmore College, Princeton University, Bates College, Haverford College, and Smith College.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Bates College, President Smith holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia. She is the author of more than 40 articles and three books on African-American literature, culture, film, and photography, and is the editor or co-editor of several volumes.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, President Smith is the eldest child of educators, Dr. William R. Smith, and Josephine Smith.



Pictured above: A rendering of Dr. Valerie Smith by our young artist, Chrystelle Gooding.



On behalf of the Evangelism Committee I would like to extend a big heartfelt thank you to **Rev. Rafael Garcia**, the members of our church family, extended family members, friends and neighbors for the wonderful turn out in celebration of Friends and Family Day at the Hempstead United Methodist Church.

A very special thank you to the **Rev. Dr. Kirton J. Lashley** for his inspirational and thought provoking message which resonated deeply with the congregation and will help to inspire us not to forget those who may be left behind; to reach out with love and concern to bring them back into the circle of love.

We were especially pleased to have retired Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra member, **Mr. Peter Georing** as our guest Violinist, Mr. Georing played so beautifully for us, accompanying **Dan Mason** on our organ.

Thank you Dan for inviting Mr. Georing to play for us; it was a special treat.

There are so many wonderful folks in our church who deserve special thanks-without their help and contributions this event could not have been so successful. So thank you all families for cooking and baking, for serving and cleaning up, for setting up and breaking down, and just for being so kind and so caring.

To the members of the Evangelism Committee: **Kathy Aikens, Marilyn Aichenson, Janice Wellington, Grace Brammer, Garydiane Morrison, Marcia King, and Royston Bailey** – thank you. To **Eileen Bailey, Margaret Foo**, and all those whose donations helped to make this event a truly special one, a great big thank you.

May God continue to keep you all in his care and richly bless us all.

Grace, Peace, and Love,
Pearl Miles-lee

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REV. RAFAEL GARCIA IS GUEST SPEAKER AT THE OCTOBER UMW MEETING



The United Methodist Women held their October meeting on Oct. 13th, and then shared lunch at the close of the business meeting. They were treated to a lively and interesting discussion led by Rev. Garcia about the book, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, by Henri I.M. Nouwen.

In Nouwen's book, the father of the prodigal son in the story is mother to him as well. The author likens their love, tenderness, nurturing care, and self-effacing forgiveness to the "perfect love of our heavenly Father that includes as well as transcends all the love that a father and mother can have for their children."

Pictured above, (L to R): Eileen Bentley, Julia Ross, Jean Bearak, Pat Scholz, Mriiam Harris, Cathy Bahr, Mary Johnson, Janice LaLumia, and Rev. Rafael Garcia. (seated)

A LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD

Sam and I would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to our Church Family at the United Methodist Church of Hempstead for all your love, support and concern that you have shown to us over the years. You have been there for us through some of the most difficult times of our lives and also the good times. It meant a lot to us when you ask us how things are back home in Sierra Leone. For that we are truly grateful and ask that God will continue to bless all that you do to the Glory of God.

Our foundation, The Turner-Riggio Foundation, is doing well. We have six students who have graduated from college and are gainfully employed helping to support their family six more in college and 24 in High School. This makes us very proud and we give God all the praise for enabling us to make a difference in the lives of these young people.

I ask that you keep us in your prayers and we will do the same. God bless you all.

- Sam and Enid Turner



Pictured (L to R): Janice Wellington and Rubia Rivas, at the September 26th Hempstead Fellowship Brunch.