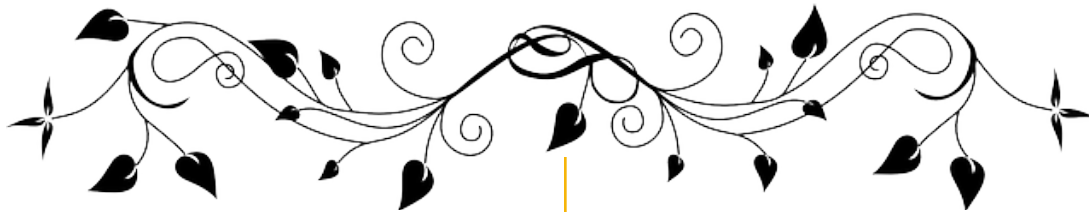




SEPTEMBER 2015

VOLUME 76—No. 61

REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR



Summer is usually a slow season in many churches but not here at Hempstead Church. We have been busy updating, fixing, and maintaining our facilities for meaningful ministry since the beginning of the year. Thousands of dollars have been spent and much more will continue to be spent through the remainder of this year. For instance, a couple of concerns of the Department of Health of Nassau County were met in two fronts. The two underground oil tanks that were supposed to be removed when we switched to a gas system were abandoned. The total cost of this job, including some plumbing work done in relation to these oil tanks, was about \$20,900. Secondly, we addressed some lead hazard issues in several parts of the building, especially in the Sunday school area, using a company recommended by the Department of Health to avoid future conflicts. For this work the church paid out \$18,000.

At another level, our church delayed the repair and painting of the old building for many years and this inaction significantly raised the tag price for this job. Several companies were asked to submit bids and only two responded. One of the proposals was simply out of our reach. The other bid was not only affordable but also met all the expectations of the Board of Trustees. Thanks to donations from some of our friends and members as well as income from our tenants, we were able to contract the services of CertaPro Painters that agreed to paint the building for \$42,950. It is important to point out that this agreement does not include any carpentry work. The repair of window frames and trims and any other wood restoration required to complete this job will be assessed and added to the total cost as CertaPro moves along with this project. The estimated expenditure for this could be an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000. It is also relevant to underline that this work does not include

the steeple which would have to be done by a steeple jack company. We expect this project to begin the last week in August and be completed by the end of the second week in September.

Other issues concerning plumbing and electrical repairs and upgrades were also addressed in order to maintain the functionality of our buildings. So far, the church has spent over \$10,000 in these repairs and upgrades and we expect to incur more expenses in this area before the year ends. Another big project that will start at the end of August is the installation of a surveillance system with cameras and video, and an intercom system. The purpose of this project is to increase the security of our building and meet the needs of all the groups using our grounds.

Beginning in September, we will have six groups using our facilities and that means people from many walks of life will be walking through our halls, offices, meeting rooms, sanctuary, chapel, and other areas. This project is estimated to cost \$19,500. There is no doubt that these groups will enhance our income, but at the same time they demand that our buildings meet their needs as well as of those they serve.

While we have been undergoing all of this, we are now facing another matter that posts a safety concern. The fence covering the south-east property of the church is old, rusty, falling apart, and too low. On several occasions, different individuals have jumped this fence and used the stair cases in that area to sleep and do a number of other things. Some of the classrooms in the Sunday school area, including the room that the Montessori pre-school program uses, are adjacent to this backyard and two of them have doors leading to this area.

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In the Spotlight



Catherine Bahr



Pictured above, (L to R) - Mary Johnson, Louise Josephson, Cathy Bahr, Julia Ross, Jean Bearak, Bea Draudt, and Dot Zondag at Cathy's 90th birthday celebration. Photo, courtesy of Joanne Peterson

Long-time member of the United Methodist Church of Hempstead, **Catherine Bahr**, recently celebrated her 90th birthday with friends and family. Over 50 people attended the surprise party at Caramia's Restaurant in Seaford, given by her children.

Cathy has been an active member of the church for 52 years and has taken on several leadership roles. As a member of the United Methodist Women since its inception, and the Judith Circle, she has contributed much to these groups. She recalls a special memory about her years in the church.

Back in the middle 60s, circle members were asked to change circles from the nighttime to the daytime and

vice-versa for the purpose of getting to know more of the UMW members and members of the congregation. "I changed to the Pheobe circle. The change was a memorable one," says Cathy. "I met women like Margaret Houston, May Secor, Evelyn Pray, and Florence Bananti, just to name a few. Their love of our church, their many talents, plus, their sense of humor were a good example for me."

Cathy and her late husband, Fred, were involved as a husband and wife team on the Activities Committee. She was also the chairperson of the Health & Welfare Committee, and she has been the Publicity Chairperson for the church for many years - helping to advertise church events and important dates.



September Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Youth Fellowship	5
6 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	7 Labor Day	8 UMW meeting, 10:30 a.m.	9	10	11	12
13 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	14	15	16	17	18 Youth Fellowship	19 Board of Trustees, 9:00 a.m.
20 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. Friends & Family/Sunday School Rally	21 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m.	22	23 Autumn Begins	24	25	26
27 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	28 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	29	30			

Did You Know?

When someone dies, donations can be made to the church - In Memory Of. The funds are deposited to the Memorial Endowment Fund, from which the interest is used by the trustees to do capital repairs. You receive acknowledgement to use for the IRS and the loved ones of the deceased receive notification of your donation (not the amount). Also, the church accepts - In Honor Of - donation. These funds are deposited to the current fund to help with expenses. Donations have been made marking a special occasion such as birthday, anniversary, confirmation or as a thank you to someone for a job well done or a favor. Once again, you receive acknowledgement to use for the IRS and the honored one receives notification of your donation (not the amount). Envelopes for either of the above can be found on the table in the narthex.

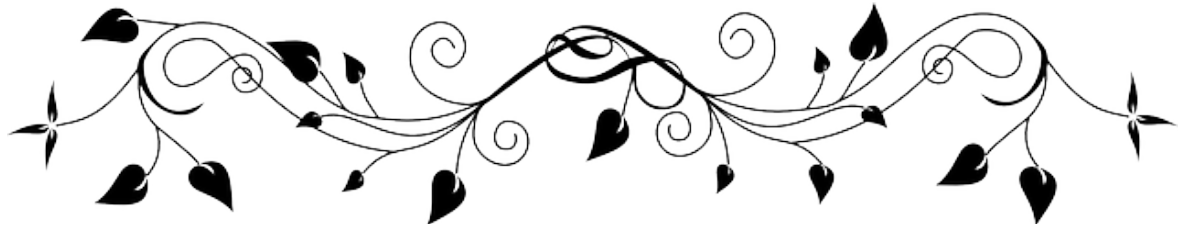


FSSG EX-PUPILS ASSOCIATION'S 26TH ANNUAL

The 26th Annual Thanksgiving Service of the Freetown Secondary School for Girls Ex-Pupils Association (FSSG) was held on July 12th at the United Methodist Church of Hempstead. At this annual fundraising occasion in which 169 people were in attendance, thanks and praise is given to God for His numerous blessings and love. Throughout its mission of contributing to the education of the students, God's guidance is continually sought. The Association's Preacher, Rev. Simeon Johnson (from Sierra Leone) gave an inspirational message about hope and love. Rev. Johnson, who is presently a resident of New York City, has served as Chaplain at Christ Hospital in Jersey City, NJ, and as Chaplain at Wagner College in Staten Island. Most recently, he served as Priest-in-Charge at St. Edmunds Episcopal Church in the Bronx, and at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Staten Island. The Association is encouraged by the continuous and generous support of sponsors and donors.

Photos, courtesy of Grace Brammer.





THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT UMC OF HEMPSTEAD





Sunshine Column



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Geraldine Watson
 Pearl Miles-Lee
 Alex Benjamin
 Lucille Eichelberger
 Pauline Lewis
 Karen Wright
 Daniel Koplitz
 Faye Angus
 Keon Rose
 Vance Bailey
 Jamel Leacock
 Quintin Isaacs-Smith
 Simone Foo
 Emeric T. Cole
 Cindy Clarke
 Cherise Daley



September 1st
 September 2nd
 September 3rd
 September 3rd
 September 3rd
 September 3rd
 September 3rd
 September 7th
 September 11th
 September 13th
 September 15th
 September 20th
 September 22nd
 September 24th
 September 25th
 September 26th
 September 28th

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 June 14th.

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

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)



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD WELCOMES MISSIONARY, DANNY KALANGWA



Church.

Danny received a degree in agriculture and natural resources from Africa University, a United Methodist institution in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Danny's parents are United Methodist missionaries.

After he wandered away from the church as a teenager, he found his way back through a youth group that engaged in Bible study and Christian service.

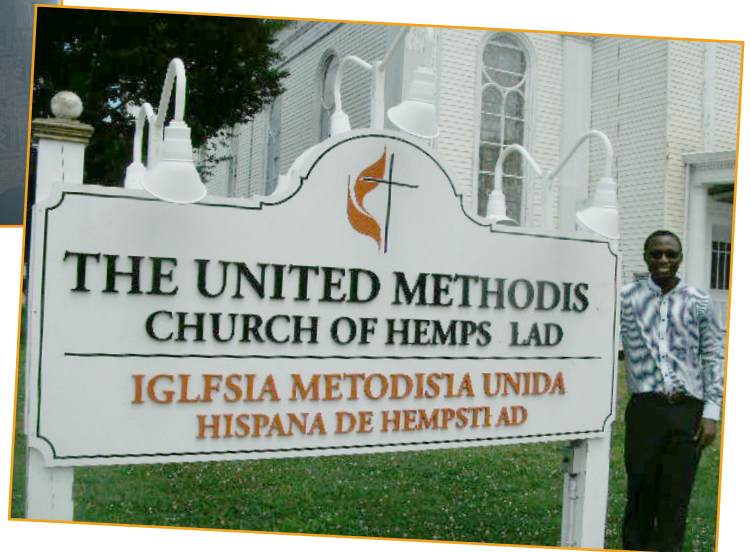
"From that time," says Danny, "I realized that Jesus has a mission for each of us and he will be with us until we complete the mission. Hebrews 13:5 says that God will never leave or forsake us. He will lead us everywhere we go, and if we put his word before everything, we will always be victorious."



Danny Kalangwa, a global mission intern with the General Board of Ministries of the United Methodist Church, was a guest speaker at the United Methodist Church during the July 26th Worship Service.

His presentation delved into the work of the young adult missionaries who engage in a 25-month international program that includes 20 months in a foreign placement. Mission interns integrate faith and justice by learning and working in communities that struggle with injustice and suffering.

Danny was commissioned in August 2013, and presently works under the banner of the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute in the Philippines. Danny is a native of Morogoro, Tanzania where he is a member of the United Methodist



Photos, courtesy of Royston Bailey

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
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Hempstead, NY 11550
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40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550
Telephone: 516-485-6363 Fax: 516-485-4803

September 2015 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet

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The children of the pre-school program use this section for outside recreational activities. The least we want is to put these children, or any other child for that matter, in harm's way as they might enter into contact with strangers on our own property. An incident of this kind would also increase our property insurance premium. In light of this pernicious situation, I have contacted several fence companies inquiring about the cost to put a new and higher fence that will not only address the matter I mentioned before but also enhance the physical appearance of our church buildings. The estimates have been in the area of \$6,500. In my opinion, this project demands immediate attention; I hope some of our members and/or friends can help us to cover this expense. Your donations toward this project will be greatly appreciated.

In addition, there are several other ventures that are going to require a great amount of resources as we begin to address them. For instance: repairing and painting the steeple, fixing the stain glass windows, getting new pew cushions, replacing the sanctuary carpet, fixing and paving the parking lot and driveway, improving the Social Hall and steeple lighting, continuing to update our electrical system, fixing the carillon, and updating the bathrooms. To complete these projects, the church will need your support. Soon the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship committee will begin a capital campaign to raise enough funds to tackle these endeavors in order to improve facilities that might be as old as 150 years.



But let us not be tempted to think that it is about having a nice building. It is indeed an important dimension of ministry because the place in which we have

chosen to worship and serve the community must reflect in its details and care the kind of relationship we have established with the God of Jesus. The condition of a place might also show the condition of our spirituality and how important is the work of God in the life of the congregation. In terms of ministry, can you imagine how many people we will be able to serve and support in loving care by the efforts of the groups using our grounds? Children, youth, the elderly, the unemployed, the homeless, the hungry, immigrants, and people worshipping in languages other than English will be able to find in our church a helping hand, a space where they are welcome, a place where they begin dreaming about a better world. It is indeed an opportunity to serve many people using the resources we have at hand, and our building certainly offers this chance. It is also a possibility to help grow God's kingdom; it is another way to do ministry. As Father Henry J. M. Nouwen wisely said, "I am pretty sure that all of us want to work for the Kingdom, to build a community of love, to let something happen that is greater than we are individually."

I believe that in working in collaboration with other community organizations, we are also contributing to build the Kingdom in our own community. I think all of you want to be part of this great project of God happening right now in our midst. My hope is that by putting all our resources together, all of us would feel we have contributed to make this vision-on-the-work a reality: some of you with your presence, others with your service, still others with your time, and some others with your treasure. Which one can you offer?

In light of all this, I am asking you to prayerfully consider giving to help complete these projects in order to make our house of worship and service a place where the community senses the abundance of God's grace and the vitality of a community of faith that is generous and full of compassion.

Grace and peace,
Pastor García