



DECEMBER 2015

HOLIDAY ISSUE

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REFLECTIONS: ALONG THE WAY



By Richard Holdsworth on October 31, 2015

The professor and mountaineer, Ernest Gellner, told of how he once became lost. No matter how he tried to follow his map, he could not find his way down the mountain. Then he realized that his map showed the wrong mountain. He used this anecdote to introduce to us Immanuel Kant's precept of the categorical imperative: an action that is necessary in itself, without reference to any other purpose. It is a categorical imperative to read the right map for the right mountain. Like Gellner, we all need maps along the way and we need the right map for the Right Moral Way.

The Right Moral Way has not changed over time and remains psychologically sound. In a *Psychology Today* article entitled "The (Only) Seven Spiritual Principles we Need to Succeed," Karl Albrecht reveals traditional key values for moral living that are still crucial in contemporary times. (see <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/brainsnacks/201301/the-only-seven-spiritual-principles-we-need-succeed>).

The following are thoughts on Albrecht's contemporary topics, with reference to their ancient precepts by indicating a Bible count of the number of times they appear in the Bible (from <http://www.openbible.info>).

Enjoy Gratitude (Bible count, 200)

I try to think gratefully about things that help me, or bring wholesome pleasure to myself and others. I also feel grateful for supportive others when I think of what life would be like without them.

Foster Humility (Bible count, 90)

Humility does not mean to let people walk all over me. It means that I should not become high minded and "one-up" on other people. Always being right, posturing about prestigious stuff, or voicing overriding attitudes display only illusions of grandeur.

Build Optimism (Bible count, 174)

Optimistic thinking is not a vague hope that everything will turn out okay. Optimism emerges from developing positive attitudes. For most of us, most of the time, there is more that is good in our world than bad – so optimism is valid! And when we are challenged, Albrecht advises, "Things turn out for the best if you make the best of the way things turn out."

Release Generosity (Bible count, 53)

Generosity creates a cheerful attitude. This is true of both financial and emotional generosity, such as being helpful, welcoming and compassionate. A truly generous person gives to give, not to get. Feeling good about giving is enhanced when it is part of a positive personal connection, not just a tax-deductible donation.

Benevolently Forgive (Bible count, 127)

Forgiveness lets go what happened, while vengeance torments us. When we relinquish our grievances we can reclaim moral strength and learn to avoid situations that create abuse.

- continued on page 3



In the Spotlight



YOUTH GROUP SHINES AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD



Under the direction of Shari Bailey, Sunday School Superintendent, and Teacher, Michelle Samuel, the Sunday School youth played a significant part in the November 15th Sunday Worship Service.

Ryan Dwyer, Zoe Gomes, Chrystelle Gooding, Kyle Pierre-Louis, and Dylan Donaldson read scripture; **Jeremy McKenzie** and **Kayden Andall** made outstanding ushers. Together with the congregation, they shared in a celebration of faith and fellowship, as well as a special recognition of 74




members who have been with the church for 25-74 years.

Each youngster and congregation member had a role in this celebration, and shared an unforgettable moment which will be remembered by many.

Pictured above: (Back Row) Jonathan McCullers, Jordan McCullers, Dylan Donaldson, Alex Benjamin, Chrystelle Gooding, Zoe Gomes, Michelle Samuel. (Front Row) Jasmine Graham, Shari Bailey, Shaniyah Graham, Tamia Page, Jeremy McKenzie, and Kayden Andall.



December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	7	8 	9	10 Church Confer- ence at Baldwin UMC, 8 p.m.	11	12
13 Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m. Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	14	15	16	17 	18 Youth Fellowship	19 Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11-1 p.m. Trustees meeting, 9 am
20 Lessons and Carols, 10 a.m. Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	21 Finance Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	22	23 	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas!	26
27 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve Service		



- continued from page 1

Along the Way...

Emphasize Purpose (Bible count, 80)

"If you don't know where you want to go, any road will take you there." Purpose means to choose a wholesome, even if limited focus, and keep out distractions.

Expand Expectations (Bible count, 20)

We often program ourselves to satisfy only the way things are in our comfort zone; but we can expand our scenarios to explore new sources of information and inspiration to bring fresh expectations.

These truisms are valuable and reliable signposts that I often miss or evade. But the overall direction of the Right Way can be realized simply. The Zen text Hsin Hsin Ming, for example, advises that the Right Way is easy—if we stop being so picky and judgmental. And to paraphrase Matthew 6.33, "Seek (Bible count 340) first the Realm of Good and everything else gets added".

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Rafael García



UMW ANNUAL CHURCH FAIR: NOV 14TH

The UMW would like to thank all of the individuals who assisted in making the Christmas Fair a success. A special thanks to those who set up tables, picked up the vegetables and the cheese, baked bread, cakes, and cookies, and to those who donated items for the various tables, including the breakfast items and hot dogs. Also many thanks to those



who manned the tables, as well as those who came out to support the event. A total of \$2,600, less expenses, was raised. These funds will be used toward the pledge to the church, the District, Long Island Harvest, Long Island Council of Churches, the Ronald McDonald House, the INN, and the Turner/Riggio Foundation (a school in Africa).
- UMW





UMW CHURCH FAIR: A FESTIVE EVENT





Sunshine Column



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST – HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Lance Koplitz	December 2nd
Melissa Ramsey	December 7th
Christine Thomson	December 10th
Frederick Draudt	December 10th
Grace Brammer	December 10th
Claudia Byam	December 12th
Joe Josephson	December 14th
James Scantlebury	December 16th
Jonathan McCullers	December 17th
Raymond Gomes	December 20th
Nicole Clarke	December 22nd
Soibhan Daley	December 22nd
Bea Draudt	December 22nd
Natasha Davidson	December 24th
Rick Edwards	December 29th
Natalie Delpratt	December 30th



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)



CELEBRATION OF OUR CHURCH MEMBERS SERVING 25 TO 74 YEARS

Thank you to all the people who helped to make the celebration of the long-time members of our church a success!

The Recognition Worship Service, held on November 15, 2015 in their honor, was truly a time of reflection. It brought many of us together in the spirit of giving, fellowship, faith, and love.

Seventy-four members were honored on this day and were given a certificate, pin, and special luncheon, prepared by our congregation.

Those for whom we paid tribute have been faithful members for 25 to 74 years and helped to build countless happy memories through the years. Congratulations to all!

- Mary Johnson, Membership Secretary





Did You Know?

Money at the Altar...some may have wondered why money is placed through the altar rail during Communion. No, *never* does anyone have to pay for Communion! The funds are deposited into a discretionary account for the Pastor. With this money, he can help those in need, member, or those who come to the door. In today's world, the requests outweigh the resources. If so moved, donate to help those in need.

At the beginning of Advent, the congregation received Christmas coin banks. You are asked to keep the box on the kitchen table and when you come in from shopping, put your change in the box as a reminder during this busy season, that Jesus is the reason for our celebration. The money received goes into the church's current funds to help pay for the ministries of the church. The boxes can be returned and given to an usher. If you did not receive a coin box, or you need another, there is a basket in the Narthex - help yourself.



Christmas Toys Needed

We are asking the congregation to once again support the church's Christmas toy drive; toys will be collected after the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13, 2015. Last year, we collected over 70 toys and this was achieved through your generosity. If possible, we ask that you wrap the gifts in white paper with the child's sex and age on the wrappings. Thank you for your support!

- UMW

Harvest SUNDAY



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.



BE THANKFUL FOR WHO GOD IS

We can find many things to be
thankful for - Which we could recite
without a thought
If asked 'what are you most thankful
for?'

One might say - the most expensive thing
they've bought

Other answers may include - life, family
and friends -

Jobs, money, air, food, health and homes-

Parts of a list without an end

After all our best thoughts were named

That stirring question still remains

"What are you most thankful for?"

My answer as a child of His (God)
Would simply be - "Who God IS!"

He's the epitome of *Grace* and *Truth*

Of Mercy and Kindness towards us
Our unconditional loving Father -
Standing behind, before and beside us

He provides everything we need
Sometimes giving us what we want
He fixes the lives which are broken
And stills the storms when we can't
He's a prayer away, yet He's unseen

God IS -
"THE CREATOR OF
EVERYTHING"

Be Thankful for every breath you take
For God is Real, He's Awesome and
He's Great!

Nov. / 2015
J. Wellington

umw Annual Christmas Lunch - Dec. 8th

On **Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015**, the United Methodist Church's annual Christmas lunch will be held at the Pompei Restaurant, 401 Hempstead Ave., West Hempstead, NY, 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m. The price is \$30.00 per person.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, 29, and Dec. 6th, there will be a sign-up sheet in the gym. The annual Christmas lunch is a time to celebrate, spend time with church members and friends. We invite all to join us on this day.

- *United Methodist Women*





HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

October



A bountiful Thanksgiving feast was prepared on Nov. 21st by the Outreach committee members and volunteers. Not only was it delicious, it was a source of comfort to those who came in to enjoy the meal—nearly 70 people attended.





HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

November



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

December 2015 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



A LETTER TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD FAMILY

*Dear family of the United Methodist Church of
Hempstead,*

Words cannot express our gratitude to the family of the United Methodist Church of Hempstead. The love and kindness you have shown us during the illness and passing of our beloved George Richards was phenomenal. Reverend Garcia, thank you for being there with us during this tumultuous journey of doctors' appointments, rehab center visits and hospital care. Your spiritual comfort was immeasurable. To Pastor Lashley, thank you for your words of healing and compassion during the years. Even though the sands of time may have passed, you committed to being there for George and us. Thank you.

The Chancel Choir's rendition of the 23rd Psalm was soothing to the soul. They sang beautifully. Thank you Kevin, your organization and performance of the musical selections were truly sound. To Mrs. Janice Wellington, what we shared at George's bedside at his last breath will never be forgotten. Your presence helped bring peace. Thank you for your words of solace at George's Homegoing.

There were so many great things that everyone had contributed compassionately to make this celebration. Thanks to Mrs. Ross and the United Methodist Women for our spiritual and physical nourishment at home. All the delicious fruit, sandwiches, hugs, visits and cakes kept us moving forward. Mr. and Mrs. Cates stepped in and took care of ushering and

shuttling our families. Thanks to the kitchen crew, everything in the café was exquisite. Even the decorations were set perfectly. Blue was George's favorite color. It was also an honor to see the United Methodist Men as pallbearers. Mr. Redman, you were his son in Christ. Please continue to spread the Good Word. George always loved your sermons.

Thanks to Mrs. Rubia for managing the church facilities for the services. Also with the help from Karen Bonnet, the community was kept well informed. Thanks to all for your calls, visits, hugs and prayers. To those who gave monetary gifts, we are grateful. We are paying it forward by sending those donations to the Memorial Endowment fund. Thanks to those who have directly contributed to the "United Methodist Church of Hempstead Memorial Endowment fund" in honor of George Richards. If there are any that may have been missed, our apologies, please note you are dear to our hearts.

On behalf of our family, you have truly brought happiness during a very difficult time. In all circumstances, we thank God for all of you. All praise and honor to him.

Love Always,

Miriam, Samantha and Luke

1 John 4:7 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God, and knows God."