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Volume 75 - No. 46

Reflections: A Message From Your Pastor

As a new season begins there are always expectations that something new may be revealed, and we hope it is good and edifying as our journey unfolds before us. Christians, especially those attending church on a regular basis, might have figured out that Ash Wednesday is drawing near and that it signals the beginning of the season of Lent. Through the years, the Western Church has designated this s time of Lent as a period of self-denial or soul-searching and repentance that helps believers to rededicate themselves and converts to get instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. From the Biblical point of view, by observing the forty days of Lent the faithful imitates Jesus’ departure into the wilderness for forty days.

Lent can also reminds us, especially as we take part in the celebration of Ash Wednesday, that we are part of creation and that as components of it we will return to our original state at the end of our journey. Therefore, it is an opportunity to appreciate once again the gift of life and the importance to live our lives to their fullness, respecting all forms and sources of life. It is this process of self-consciousness about our potential to reach the fullness of our humanity that I believe gives us the capacity live fully, to love wastefully, and be all that we can be as Bishop Spong continuously claims.

Pastor Rex Hunt thinks of Lent as “a time of self-discovery and self affirmation, as well as a time to reclaim our connectedness with the whole of the cosmos, rather than a time of self denial.” In light of this, Lent is a period to rediscover one’s strengths and rededicate them to the betterment of humanity. It is an occasion

to rethink our relationships not just at the individual level but also at the community level. In particular think about your relationship with your community of faith and the impact your talents might have on the church ministry, as well as the impact you might have on your church ministry when it lacks your talents. Either way, the challenge is to think, “How am I affecting the work of God through my church?”

In the spirit of Lent, we are invited to recreate life by affirming our potential and creativity as people on the road of justice and peace. Let us revive the highest values that a human being is capable of displaying to promote the reign of God, and let us imitate the humanity of the one we call Jesus who, above all, taught us how to be genuine human beings.

Our theme for this Year’s Lenten season is: “Grow in love as you journey with Christ.” We hope to start our celebration for Lent with the Ash Wednesday service that this year will be on March 5. After this, we will meet every Wednesday evening during Lent to share a light meal and reflect on Christ’s journey through the stations of the cross.

I am extending you an invitation to come and share and reflect during this Lenten season here at Hempstead Church.

Grace and peace,
The Rev. Rafael García

Kids Bible Wordsearch - Men of the Old Testament

Find and circle the names of the men from the Old Testament in this word search game - names can be found backwards, forward, up, down, and diagonally. Have fun!

AARON

ABEL

ABRAHAM

ADAM

AMOS

CAIN

DANIEL

DAVID

ELIJAH

EZEKIEL

GIDEON

GOLIATH

ISAAC

JACOB

A	E	D	I	V	A	D	O	T	J	L	J	M
M	A	L	R	R	J	P	O	B	A	E	O	Z
O	L	W	I	O	G	L	W	N	C	I	N	N
S	D	E	S	J	E	O	O	B	O	K	A	O
W	A	E	U	I	A	M	L	I	B	E	T	E
Q	P	U	N	M	O	H	Q	I	H	Z	H	D
H	P	A	L	L	A	I	I	R	A	E	A	I
Q	D	J	O	B	S	S	K	N	O	T	N	G
N	O	S	M	A	S	S	I	L	N	H	H	X
A	B	R	A	H	A	M	E	L	N	C	C	I
G	U	C	A	A	R	O	N	S	E	I	G	Q
A	U	H	S	O	J	Y	Q	G	O	B	A	Z
E	M	A	D	A	J	O	N	A	H	M	A	C

JOB

JOEL

JONAH

JONATHAN

JOSEPH

JOSHUA

LOT

MOSES

NIMROD

NOAH

SAMSON

SAMUEL

SAUL

SOLOMON

2014 YOUTH AMBASSADORS IN MISSION TO CAMBODIA

Xavier Gooding is presently on a mission in Cambodia, along with 19 youths and four adults who are representing the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. We give thanks and praise to God for granting these extraordinary individuals another blessed opportunity to be in ministry with their brothers and sisters in Cambodia. The group left JFK airport on Friday February 14 and will return on February 26, 2014. Their Mission is simple: **Sharing the love of God together.**



Pictured, above: Nineteen youth Ambassadors, representing the NYAC, went a mission to Cambodia recently. They are pictured at JFK, just prior to departure.



Pictured, right: John Onanuga, Jacob Onanuga, Jeremiah Bryant, Raymond, Hugh Brown, and Wayne Redman.

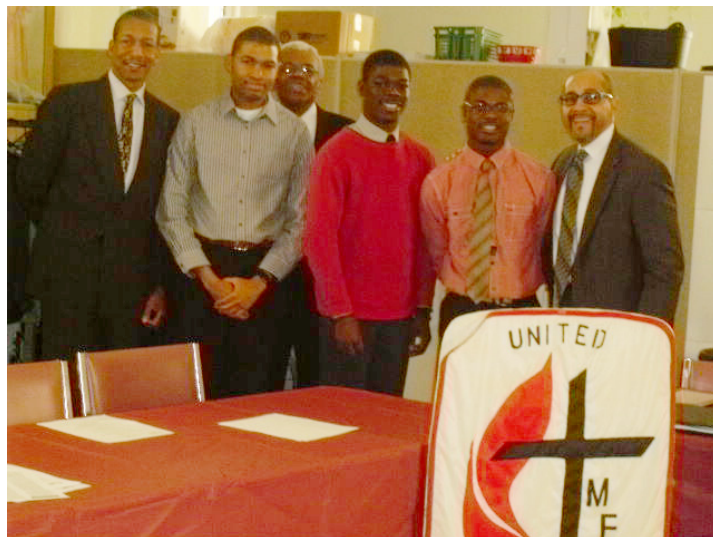


Pictured, above: Claude, Xavier and Hazel Gooding at JFK, prior to Xavier's departure to Cambodia.

REKINDLING THE FLAME: UMM BURNS BRIGHTER

We jumpstarted and rekindled this ministry in October and have had a healthy response since then. There were 14 people who attended the breakfast on February 16th (the first breakfast for over two years.) In attendance were three of our youths and three lovely ladies from our parish, Julia Ross, Mary Johnson, and Christine Thomson. Duncan Chase, Patrick Thomson and Mrs. Thomson prepared the food, which was delicious! We had an enjoyable time discussing the young people, making business plans for future activities, socializing, and reminiscing.

Roy Bailey



SUNSHINE COLUMN/BIRTHDAYS

MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 2nd: Wayne Hall
 March 5th: Kamla Rose
 March 8th: George Knight
 March 9th: James Greene
 March 11th: Maxine Knight
 March 12th: Paul Ross
 March 13th: Kimberly Johnson
 March 14th: Beatrice Nwatu, Jade Page
 March 15th: Linda Gomes
 March 17th: Charlene Brown
 March 19th: Carol Hicks-Allen, Glenston Bucknor
 March 20th: Sheila Smith, Janice LaLumia
 March 22nd: Clarence Neilson Jr.
 March 23rd: Cherie Brown
 March 31st: Nadine Samuels, Errol Foo

**Another
 year has gone by
 And another is
 yet to unfold,
 God has
 purposed your
 every step
 And what the future holds,
 So celebrate with joy
 and gladness
 In all that God would do,
 Knowing that through the
 future years,
 God's hand shall be upon you.**



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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 March 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the third week of March -- and each third week of the month thereafter. Thank you!

If you are new 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: Hispanic Service, 12:30 PM
 Wednesday: 6:00 AM-6:00 PM
 Fast and Pray (as you are able)

Thursday: 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday: 8:00 PM Youth Fellowship
 (Alternate Fridays)



The United Methodist Church of Hempstead welcomed three new members into the congregation on Sunday, February 16, 2014. Our new members are:

Myrlene Germain
Jeff Anderson Chase
Agnes C. Lewis

We welcome you into our church family!



SWAG

STANDING WITH THE ARMOR OF GOD

IGNITE

WORSHIP YOUTH WORKSHOPS
PREACHERS GAMES DJ DANCE H.Y.P.E.
PARTY PRAISE BAND

3/28/2014 to 3/30/2014
Quinipet Retreat Center
99 Shore Rd
Shelter Island Heights, New York 11965





Save the Dates - March 2014



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	6	7	8 International Women's Day Leadership Retreat at the Parish Resource Center
9 Daylight Savings Time begins	10	11	12 Light supper & Lenten Reflection, by the Worship Committee 7:30-8:30 p.m.	13	14	15 UMW Continental Breakfast, Social Hall, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 Light Supper and Lenten Reflection, by the UMM 7:30-8:30 p.m.	20 First Day of Spring	21	22
23	24	25	26 Light Supper and Lenten Reflection, by the UMW 7:30-8:30 p.m.	27	28 Ignite Retreat, Quinipet	29 Ignite Retreat, Quinipet
30 Ignite Retreat, Quinipet	31					

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION – FEBRUARY 23, 2014

Our church held its Annual Black History Month celebration on Sunday, February 23, 2014. The event theme was “Celebrating the Contributions of Black Women in Clergy.” Reverend Lisa Williams was our keynote speaker and the guest Choir was the Calvary Tabernacle.

Reverend Lisa Williams is an Associate Minister at Mount Moriah A.M.E. Church where she oversees the Assimilation ministry. The focus of this ministry is to care for the needs of people from the door of the church (first time visitors) to the floor of service (functional members of both the body of Christ and the local Church). She developed their now standard curriculum of Christian Care, which instructs, encourages and empowers believers to walk in the fruit of the Spirit, while lending their time and talents in service to the Lord.

Reverend Williams works closely with the Women’s Ministry and has been instrumental in the develop-

ment and organization of their annual retreats, which provides a platform for adult women of all ages to be purged, strengthened, and renewed in Christ. Vocationally, Reverend Williams has worked in Information Technology as a Support Analyst and Software Trainer for the past 20 years. She now uses those same skills to equip the Saints in using technology as a vehicle to bring the message of Christ to the world through social media, website building and electronic marketing. Reverend Williams has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and her Masters of Divinity Degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Reverend Williams is highly respected as a woman after God’s own heart, whose passion is to encourage others through the preaching and teaching of God’s word. to plant seeds of hope, restoration and reconciliation. She is a counselor, a teacher, a preacher, a facilitator, and a child of God.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR LENT AND EASTER

Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 7:30 p.m.
Light supper and meditation every Wed. during Lent from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., organized by:

- **The Worship Committee,** March 12th
- **The United Methodist Men,** March 19th
- **The United Methodist Women,** March 26th
- **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.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN VALENTINE LUNCHEON



The UMW enjoyed a Valentine luncheon on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. Pictured in their festive outfits are: (Standing, from left to right), Janice LaLumia, Elnora Brevard, Jean Bearak, Jackie Morgan, Miriam Harris, Julia Ross, Mary Johnson. (Sitting, from left to right), Dot Zondag, Bea Draudt, Miriam Richards.

Save the date! The Annual United Methodist Women’s Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, March 15, 2014, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon.**

All women of the church are invited. We ask that you bring a boxed or non-perishable canned food item for the church’s food box. There will be a sign-up sheet in the gym starting February 23, 2014.

Our guest speaker(s) will be from the Safe Center of Long Island. We look forward to having you join us to enjoy a morning of socializing and information pertaining to women and families.

Jackie Morgan

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”
(Proverbs 3:5-6, NRSV)*