



FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 76-No. 76

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Psalm 127:1a

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I greet you once more in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The year 2017 is gearing up to be another busy one for us at the United Methodist Church of Hempstead (UMCH). And the ministries of the different committees, groups, and organizations are beginning to take shape.

According to the church's records, "Hempstead's Methodist congregation was established in 1812 by the Rev. William Thatcher, an itinerant preacher on what was known as the Jamaica Circuit. Initially, services were held in private homes. When the houses became too small, the congregation moved into a rented building... The church moved to its present location in 1822."

For 195 years, the Methodist Church has been a remarkable presence in the Incorporated Village of Hempstead at the corners of Washington and Front Streets.



It is fitting that we celebrate this significant milestone at different intervals during 2017. Since May is believed to be the month of the church's inception, I am proposing that we begin our 195th celebrations on Sunday, May 21 (Please circle this date on your calendar).

Soon, there will be a committee in place to plan this year's anniversary activities. Meanwhile, I am encouraging members, family, friends, and well-wishers of UMCH to consider making this a special anniversary by contributing one dollar for each year of the church's existence (or whatever we are able to give). This sacrificial giving will be over and above our regular tithes and offerings.

It is my hope that we would raise funds that would enable us to continue making much needed improvements to our church's facilities and to refurbish and/or replace items that would enhance our worship of God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer.

This is an exciting time in the life of the church. Let's work together and build on this legacy.

Yours in His service,
St. Clair A. Samuel



In the Spotlight



Ruth Robinson



Many people in the congregation know Ruth Robinson as a humble, kind, and compassionate person; the epitome of a lady. This lovely lady has not only contributed greatly to the church and community, she has also made an impact in black history.

Ruth is a member of the UMC of Hempstead for 26 years and a resident of Hempstead for the past 20 years. To her credit, she has assisted with the UMC of Hempstead Sunday School program, volunteered wherever needed in other events and activities, and more recently, spearheaded the Hempstead Fellowship Brunch nearly two years ago with the help of her oldest son, Stephen, and Rev. Rafael Garcia. "My son worked at the INN in Hempstead, and said we could provide a program for the community and really reach out to help many people," said Ruth. "I love helping people. To see these people line up so we can comfort them and feed them for a few hours each month, is very touching and rewarding."

Prior to joining the UMC of Hempstead, she was a member of St. Paul AME Zion Church of Great Neck for 30 years; she was very

active in church and community, working with families and young people in the Manhasset area in which she lived with her family. When she moved to the area, her oldest son was two; the year was 1959. At that time, the schools were segregated but that was about to change. Together with five other parents, Ruth brought a case against the Great Neck Schools, as the schools were not teaching properly and their children were not getting a fair education. "Together with the NAACP, we won the case for our children," said Ruth, proudly. She recalls wearing a red dress on the last day of the case, and was the first one called to the stand in the courtroom. She gave them an eloquent, passionate, and sincere message that included the words: "I do this for my children and the community. We deserve the same education as other children." The judge ruled in their favor.

After the ruling, *Newsday* came to interview Ruth and the children. It was a great moment in history, marked by great change for the future education of black children. For her tremendous efforts, Ruth was recognized with a Citation from the Nassau County Legislature, and the "Mayor's Special Service Award," presented by the Incorporated Village of Hempstead.

Ruth raised four children, three sons, and her daughter who passed away. She is blessed with five grandchildren and her first great-granddaughter, Kali Marie.

Note: February is Black History Month. Black History month first originated in 1926 as part of an initiative by writer and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Since 1976, every American president has proclaimed February as Black History Month. Today, other countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom also devote an entire month to celebrating black history.





February Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Installation of Officers, 10 am Worship Service	13	14 UMW meeting, 10:30 am followed by lunch, 12-2 pm	15	16	17	18 Trustees meeting, 10 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Finance meeting, 10 am Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11-1 pm
26	27 Church Council meeting, 7:30 pm	28	<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017 </div>			



"Our creator is the same and never changes despite the names given Him by people here and in all parts of the world. Even if we gave Him no name at all, He would still be there, within us, waiting to give us good on this earth."

- George Washington Carver

"God is the friend of silence. Trees, flowers, grass grow in silence. See the stars, moon, and sun, how they move in silence."

- Mother Theresa



CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR



Many people from the congregation and community were treated to a delicious New Year's brunch, courtesy of Ruth Robinson and the dedicated volunteers of the Hempstead Fellowship Brunch ministry.

The event was attended by more than 75 people who shared good food and fellowship in a caring, and comfortable atmosphere.



Pictured above: Duncan Chase, who whipped up the food in the kitchen, was one of the cooks for the New Year Brunch.



Pictured above: The lovely volunteers of the Hempstead Fellowship Brunch came to serve guests at the event.



BRUNCH - JANUARY 7, 2017



Pictured above : The dedicated servers at the brunch provide meals for our guests.



*Pictured above:
Mrs. Brenda Samuel.*



*Pictured, L-R:
Zoe Gomes and
Chrystelle Gooding.*

*Pictured, below,
Elnora Brevard.*



Pictured: L-R: Eileen Bailey, Wayne Redman, Ruth Robinson, Duncan Chase, Pauline Lewis, Elnora Brevard and Leon Williams.



REFLECTIONS: PAST AND PRESENT

A WORSHIP MOMENT

LOOKING BACK



"BE STRONG IN THE LORD IN IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT." EPHESIANS: 6:19

LIVING IN THESE TIMES OF MORAL DECAY AND SURROUNDED BY TERRORISM AND EVIL, WE ARE CONSTANTLY FILLED WITH FEARS. SO WE SPEND MUCH TIME SEEKING WAYS TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND OUR WORLD.

WE MUST FIRST REALIZE THAT WE HUMANS CANNOT FIGHT THESE THINGS ON OUR OWN AND THEN PLACE OUR TRUST IN THE ONE WHO IS IN CONTROL AND FROM WHOM OUR STRENGTH COMES.

THE APOSTLE PAUL OFFERS A WONDERFUL SUGGESTION WHEN HE RECOMMENDS THAT WE CLOTHE OURSELVES IN THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD. IT WILL PROTECT, GUIDE, DIRECT, AND STRENGTHEN US SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY, AND ENABLE US TO STAND AGAINST ALL ENEMIES AND EVIL FORCES. IT IS ALWAYS OUR BEST DEFENSE UNDER ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR LIVES. GOD'S ARMOR, YOU REMEMBER, INCLUDES THE BELT OF TRUTH, THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, THE SHIELD OF FAITH, THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.

SURELY, THIS "OUTFIT" IS THE APPROPRIATE DRESS FOR ALL OF US WHO WOULD BE DISCIPLES. REST ASSURED THAT IT WILL NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE, IS SUITABLE FOR ALL SEASONS, AND BECOMING TO ALL WHO WEAR IT.

- JEAN HOWELL
1920-2014

Note: Jean Howell was a long-time, active member of the UMC of Hempstead. She was a regular contributor of the article, "A Worship Moment." Jean passed away two years ago but her words have timeless significance.

TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK WITH ME
OF THE MEMORIES YOU MADE LAST YEAR
WAS IT ONLY ONE? ONCE A WEEK, MONTH OR DAY
NONE YOU CAN RECALL, OR SOME YOU CAN HARDLY
BEAR

WAS IT OF FAMILY, A FRIEND OR A STRANGER
SOME GOOD DEED ALONG LIFE'S WAY
A NEW RELATIONSHIP, A NEW BIRTH
AN UNEXPECTED GIFT THAT BRIGHTENED YOUR DAY

A DIFFERENT CHURCH YOU FOUND AND VISITED
A NEW PASTOR WITH WHOM TO IDENTIFY
NEW WAYS BY WHICH TO EMBRACE GOD'S WORDS

NEW MENUS TO TASTE, SHARE OR MAYBE TO TRY

WERE YOU THANKFUL FOR EACH DAY AND HOUR
FOR FOOD, SHELTER, GOOD HEALTH, CONVERSATION,
LOVE

THROUGHOUT ANOTHER YEAR YOUR LIFE WAS SPARED
WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST FROM ALL THE ABOVE?

LOOKING BACK SHOWS WHERE YOU CAME FROM
GOD MET YOUR NEEDS IN HIS GREATEST
MAGNITUDE

CAST NOW YOUR CARES, TRUST ONLY IN GOD
MOVE FORWARD IN HOPE, WITH JOY AND GRATITUDE

MAY JOY! PEACE! LOVE!
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSINGS - BE YOURS IN 2017

*Janice Wellington
Jan. /2017*



Sunshine Column



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Patrick Thomson	February 3rd
Hugh Brown	February 4th
Daniella Johnson	February 5th
Celeste Walwyn	February 6th
Jean Bearak	February 9th
Louise Josephson	February 10th
Aniqa Garrison	February 10th
Alexis Redman	February 10th
Chelsea Redman	February 10th
Xavyer Thomson	February 11th
Meda Hill	February 12th
Dorothy Zondag	February 13th
Miriam Harris	February 14th
Joseph Hall	February 16th
Paulette Brown	February 16th
Marilyn Harris	February 17th
Shirley Brown	February 18th
Jackie Morgan	February 18th

Ruth Robinson	February 20th
Roger Eastman	February 21st
Shari Bailey	February 23rd
Norman Brown	February 24th
Daniella Dwyer	February 24th
Clifford Brown	February 26th
Natalie Moran	February 26th
Xavier Gooding	February 26th
Stephen Samuel	February 28th
Jon Lee	February 29th

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*If your name is not on the list, please contact 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 January 19th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed in the first week of March. Your church-related articles and photos are welcome!

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)

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**CHURCH
NEWS**



UMC of Hempstead is
Celebrating Its 195th
Anniversary!
Date: Sunday, May 21st

Please mark your calendars and join us
for a joyous celebration!
More details to follow.

Members of the UMC of Hempstead congregation gathered with other parishioners on January 16th for a cluster service at Baldwin UMC, to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. It was a meaningful service that paid tribute to the civil rights activist and world-renowned minister.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.



Martin Luther King, Jr
American activist
(1929-1968)

QuoteHD.com