

## REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



Let me take the opportunity in this, my last issue of our newsletter, to express my deep gratitude for the caring and touching ways you showed your love and appreciation for the time we journeyed together in Hempstead.

There is no doubt that during these last three years of ministry, we learned and grew from our experiences mutually. Your warm words and hugs, as well as your smiles, awoke in my most inner being beautiful feelings and thoughts. But also, your commitment and dedication to uplift the ministry of the church of Hempstead was encouraging and inspiring. I think these two important elements of this ministry, compassion, and commitment, helped us to accomplish good things together and for that I will be forever indebted.

As life has now taken us in different directions but with the same meaning and purpose—to help build the kingdom of God in our neighborhoods, let us keep each other in prayer that

God will continue to give us the courage to do what must be done. Church ministry

requires our collective commitment and effort along with a thanksgiving heart because it is the life-giving ministry of God given to all through us. I hope each one of you can find time to pray, meditate, and contemplate God's amazing creation and discover what our role is in it, so that your faith, hope, and love will be able to express in a tangible form the abundant grace that God pours in people's lives and relationships.

Finally, as Father Henri J. M. Nouwne wrote in his book, *Here and Now*, my hope is that the description of God's love in my life will give you the freedom and the courage to discover God's love in yours.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Rafael García*





# *In the Spotlight*



## **FAREWELL RECEPTION AND TRIBUTE TO REV. RAFAEL GARCIA IN CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY**

An outpouring of congregation members, friends, family and colleagues of Rev. Garcia joined together for a heartwarming worship service and farewell reception, held on June 4, 2016 at the UMC of Hempstead.

Both the service and farewell luncheon reception was organized by Rev. Garcia's wife, Madeline, to honor the man, husband, father, minister, and Pastor for his anniversary of 25 years of service to the UMC, and three years of ministry as Pastor of the UMC of Hempstead.

The service was complemented by beautiful hymns, moving presentations, and an inspirational sermon by Rev. Eddie Lopez.

Rev. Garcia was appointed to Christ UMC of Staten Island, and will be greatly missed by the congregation and staff.

We send him off with good wishes and many blessings as he begins his new journey!



*Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes*

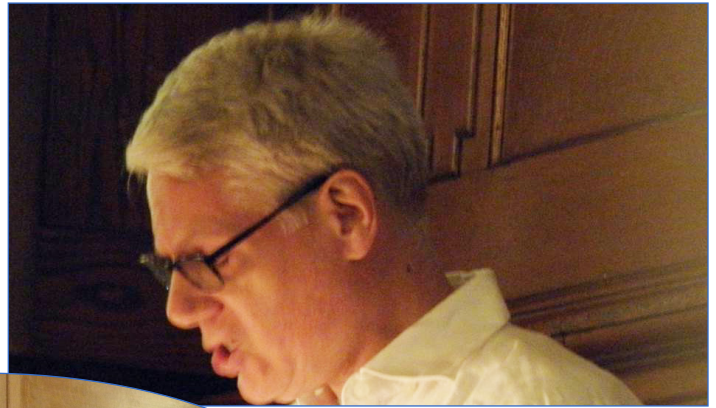
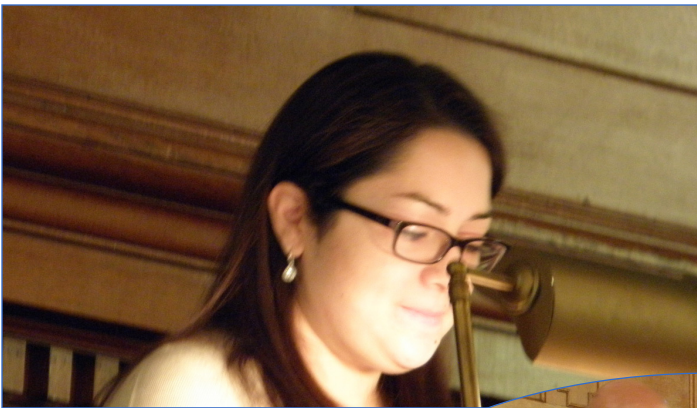


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# FAREWELL RECEPTION AND TRIBUTE TO REV. RAFAEL GARCIA







## FAREWELL RECEPTION - JUNE 4, 2016



Farewell  
To  
Our  
Pastor



Thank You  
For Three  
Years of  
Love  
God Bless  
You







# UMW SPRING LUNCHEON

The UMW Spring Luncheon, organized by Jackie Morgan and the UMW executive board was well-attended, with over 25 ladies and gentlemen attending, including Rev. Garcia and his wife, Madeline. It was held on Tuesday, June 14 at the Davenport Press Restaurant. The annual luncheon is a tradition that began in the middle of the 19th century (!) and has always been a successful and fun outing, as well as delicious!



*Pictured: (L-R) Mary Johnson, Leon Williams, Roger Eastman, Jim Ross, Miriam Richards, and Linda Guggino.*



*Pictured: (L-R) Alexandrina Bucknor and her daughter, Josephine Smith, Julia Ross, Madeline Corredor-Garcia, Rubia Rivas, and Rev. Rafael Garcia.*



*Pictured: (L-R) Elnora Brevard, Meda Hill, Jean Bearak, Danielle Dwyer, Garydiane Morrison, Gloria Howard, and Ruth Robinson.*



*Pictured: (L-R) Ruby, Sheila Smith, Rev. Elizabeth Williams, Pearl Miles, Jackie Morgan, and Amanda Persaud.*





# FATHERS DAY GOOD WISHES

*Love you paa...*

## **"LITTLE IMAGES"**

**I COULD SEE THIS FACE - SO TENDER  
FULL OF SMILES, SOMETIMES WITH TEARS  
I WONDERED IF SOMEDAY I'LL BE -  
ALL GROWN UP, LIKE THIS DAD WHO CARES**

**AT TIMES I'D SEE TWO STRONG HANDS  
AS THEY LIFTED ME WAY UP HIGH  
OR MAYBE STRETCHED UP IN THE AIR  
AS THEY WAVED TO ME 'GOODBYE'  
THOSE ARMS SOMETIMES ENFOLDING ME  
TO COMFORT, GUIDE, FEED OR DIRECT ME  
IN USE FOR HOURS ON HIS JOB -  
WHICH HELPED TO CLOTHE, SHELTER AND PROTECT ME**

**I COULD SEE TWO FEET CONSTANTLY MOVING  
LEAVING FOOTPRINTS TO SHOW ME THE WAY-  
IN WHICH I'LL TRY MY BEST TO FOLLOW  
FROM THE INSPIRATION THEY GAVE EACH DAY  
TWO FEET TOGETHER FORMING A 'LAP' -  
ON WHICH I SAT WHILE YOU ROCKED  
AT TIMES LAUGHING OR SINGING -  
A FAVOURITE SONG, TO ME - 'A TOT'**

**I'M THANKFUL NOW FOR THESE INSIGHTS DAD  
GIVEN WHILE I WAS VERY SMALL  
'LITTLE IMAGES' WHICH SHOWED ME HOW YOU CARED  
AND TAUGHT ME ABOUT LOVE - ABOVE ALL**

**"THANKS DAD!"**

**J. WELLINGTON/JUNE/2016**





## YOUR RAINBOW

(For Pastor Garcia)

Together we've made you a "Rainbow"  
 With these colors in place to show –  
 The lives you've touched will continually be blessed  
 As you journey on to where God's Blessings flow

**RED:** Sees the frustration felt when committees can't seem to function together  
 Your calm nature over-rides and quickly makes the atmosphere better

**YELLOW:** Is your humble nature which paves the way.  
 Your smiling countenance, your selfless prayer  
 Combining to sustain your Ministry through the years

**ORANGE:** Delivers your strength to stand and Preach –  
 On whatever you believe is right  
 Yet remaining sensitive to the beliefs of others  
 Who may challenge you with all their might

**GREEN:** Brings to mind events of sickness and grief for which you prayed  
 That God will stretch his 'Healing Hand'- Or -  
 The times when 'Death' overtakes, and we do not understand

**BLUE:** Shows your sincere, caring way to listen and sometimes give advice  
 That's how we capture God's Love, shining through into our lives

**PURPLE:** Says you live in hope, of utilizing your knowledge to bring –  
 Togetherness, through Faith, Love and Trust  
 An important message of Christ our King

A church divided cannot stand! We know this to be true  
 With heartfelt Thanks we send you forth  
 Asking God's Blessings for your Family and for You

*J. Wellington/June 2016*



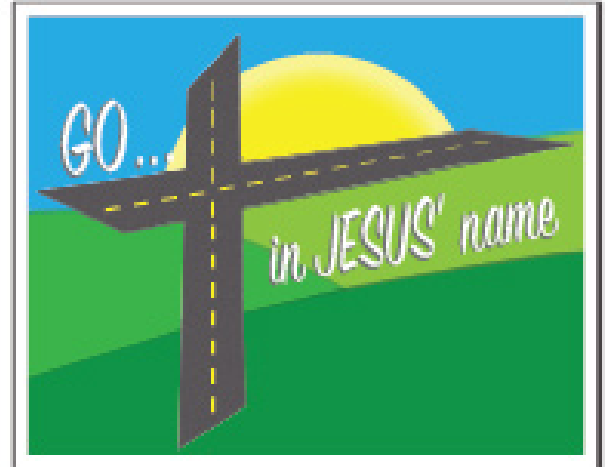


# 2016 NY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

All six districts of the NYAC were represented at the 217th annual session of this year's New York Annual Conference. Over 1,200 delegates, ministers, and lay people attended this informative and important event on June 8-11th, held at Hofstra University in Uniondale.

The theme was appropriately called "Go....in Jesus' name," so that we all remember that the spirit sends us forth to "GO" and serve, as He did.

- By Mary Johnson



*Pictured above: CT District Superintendent, Rev. Ken Kieffer (and nominated candidate for Bishop).*



*Pictured, left: Rev. Rafael Garcia. Pictured above, L-R): Royston Bailey, Rev. St. Clair Samuel and Mrs. Brenda Samuel, and Mary Johnson.*



## Receiving the new Ministers



*Photos, courtesy of Royston Bailey*





# 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



*Pictured, above at the 2016 NY Annual Conference, (L-R) Judith McRae, president of the UMW of the NYAC, and Harriet Olsen, general secretary of the UMW of the NYAC.*



*Pictured, above at the 2016 NY Annual Conference, (L-R) Royston Bailey, president of the UMM of the NYAC, Marcus McKinney, and Mary Johnson, elected delegate to the NYAC.*

## "MOVING UP" SUNDAY JUNE 26, 2016



Twenty-eight Sunday school students graduated from their Sunday school classes, organized by Shari Bailey, director, and Michelle Samuels, teacher. A special Worship Service was held on June 4, 2016 in recognition of the students' accomplishments.







# Hempstead Fellowship Brunch

The Hempstead Fellowship Brunch (HFB), held on Saturday, June 25th, provided many people from the community with a hearty meal prepared by Ruth Robinson, Elnora Brevard, and their committee. Volunteers with friendly smiles were available to serve the food and attend to the needs of those who came to enjoy the meal. The HFB is an important ministry that not only provides food donated and cooked by volunteers, it is also a source of comfort to people in need. Its doors are open every third Saturday of the month.

The next HFB will meet on Saturday, July 23, 2016.



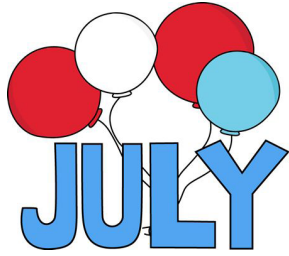




# Sunshine Column

## JULY/AUGUST BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sarian Parker  
 Ralph Mueckenheim  
 Leonora Williams Valeris  
 Jill Gunzel  
 Janice Wellington  
 Linda Guggino  
 Nalani Mason  
 Dwayne Foo  
 Jason Wellington  
 Johnnell P. Demery  
 Jacquelyn Koroma  
 Nadia Bucknor  
 Leon Bodden  
 Dionne Angus  
 Clovine Leacock  
 Gilmore Forbes  
 Elsie Nickoloff  
 Stevenson Scantlebury  
 Nicole Dwyer  
 Karen Bonnet  
 William Smith



July 1st Leon Williams  
 July 2nd Jordan Boucicaut  
 July 4th Geoffrey Wellington  
 July 8th Mary J. Mueckenheim  
 July 8th Pat Scholz  
 July 8th Nadia Bucknor  
 July 8th Rashaad Harcum  
 July 13th Ashley Ford  
 July 15th Gabrielle Bernadotte  
 July 15th Donald Woolnough  
 July 16th Amanda Scantlebury  
 July 17th Hamilton Bowen  
 July 18th Gabrielle Lewis  
 July 18th Willie Brown  
 July 24th Emmanuel Nwatu  
 July 25th Emily A. Brew  
 July 27th  
 July 28th  
 July 30th  
 July 30th  
 July 31st

August 7th  
 August 14th  
 August 14th  
 August 15th  
 August 16th  
 August 17th  
 August 18th  
 August 19th  
 August 23rd  
 August 25th  
 August 25th  
 August 27th  
 August 28th  
 August 28th  
 August 28th  
 August 31st



*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 August 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed in the first week of September. Have a happy, relaxing, safe, and memorable summer!

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)



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

July/August 2016 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet

## ***Greetings to the Wonderful Congregation of Hempstead,***

I want you to know that, in some ways, being a pastor's wife is no different than being a doctor's wife or a teacher's wife. There are sacrifices that must be made and challenges that accompany every job. Just like you, I love my kids, I like spending time with my husband, I feel lonely and overwhelmed sometimes, I need encouragement, I doubt myself, I try my best, I want to enjoy God and know His pleasure.

I want you to know that I am equally as passionate about the church as my husband and equally as called into ministry. That is the reason why I am going to miss all of you. My husband's role looks vastly different than mine, and I am not as "out front" as him, but I am just as involved, concerned, and vital to the ministry God has given us. I want you to know this, not because I'm looking for your validation or appreciation, but just so that you are aware that your critical asides about the church or decisions my husband has made feel personal to me.

I want you to know that I will always treasure every moment I spent here in Hempstead; so many wonderful memories. It is so unfair to have to start all over for us when we have initiated relationships, cultivated trust, love, and most important, worked together. It has been so refreshing here in Hempstead due to the amazing church members; all of you refresh my soul. I am going to miss all of you enormously.

I also want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for all the hard work and dedication all of you put in to celebrate my husband's 25th Anniversary on June 4th. We did it all together, and I value your advice, your planning, and your commitment to the event, despite the fact that he has been appointed to a new church.

Finally, I want you to know that I consider my role a privilege. My opportunity to influence, teach, counsel, and lead women and brings me great joy. I love the Hempstead congregation God has given us to serve, and I love serving. It is not always easy to serve joyfully, but it's my goal and desire, and I'm getting there after 13 years of ministry, 6 years with my husband, and 7 years on my own. In the end, I am not a pastor's wife because of my husband. I am a pastor's wife for the glory and honor of God. To me, it is not a goodbye; rather a new chapter that begins with an opportunity to do ministry with new people that GOD is sending us to rebuild and unify in GOD's love.

If you decide to keep in touch with us, the Garcia – Corredor family, here is my email information: [corredma4@gmail.com](mailto:corredma4@gmail.com) or my cell number 973-832-3607. Our home address: 182 Walnut Street, Livingston, New Jersey 07039.

Sincerely,  
Madeline Corredor – Garcia  
*Proverbs 17:17*

*"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*



HAPPY  
SUMMER