

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The United Methodist Church of Hempstead “Parish News” at 40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550 <i>Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold</i>	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
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June 2015 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet

Announcement, - continued from page 5

Blue Fish

I am uncomfortable with the church’s policies on homosexuality. *One or more of these statements may describe your view or belief:*

1. Scripture is the inspired word of God and is to be understood and interpreted within the culture and times of the people who lived during biblical times.
2. Human sexuality including homosexuality is a gift from God.
3. Marriage may be between two people of the same gender.
4. I want the church’s polices to change and will be concerned and may consider leaving if the church does not change its policies.

Present the legislation with one speech for and one speech against:

The six pieces of legislation will be presented at the same time.

1. The first four pieces of legislation seek to change the Discipline and the church’s policies about homosexuality. These pieces will be presented by the writer of the legislation who will have three minutes to speak. Someone who opposes the legislation will also have three minutes to speak.
2. The remaining two pieces of legislation call for the conference to commit and work for 1) the full civil and ecclesiastical rights of lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered persons and 2) support marriage equality. This will be presented by the writer of the legislation who will have three minutes to speak. Someone who opposes the legislation will also have three minutes to speak.
3. There will not be an opportunity to amend the legislation or ask questions about the legislation. A Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page has been added to the legislation pages of the website.

Transition moment:
Begin with silence and then sing, “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”.

Engage in holy conferencing with a sharing partner:

During a 20 minute period, sharing partners will introduce themselves to each other and share the answers to the following questions:

1. How has your life been touched by God, in the last year or while at Annual Conference?
2. What is your hope for the future of the church and what concerns do you have?
3. How have you personally experienced the churches struggle with homosexuality?
4. The sharing partner asks one question for clarification, for example: “Share with me more about ... and why you believe this.” Or, “How did you come to this understanding?” Or, “How would you see GNJ living this out?” Or, “What experience did you have

that shaped your thinking?”

5. What do you believe about the church’s policies concerning homosexuality and what do you want others to understand?

6. The sharing partner asks one question for clarification, for example: “Share with me more about ... and why you believe this.” Or, “How did you come to this understanding?” Or, “How would you see GNJ living this out?” Or, “What experience did you have that shaped your thinking?”

7. What is one thing that would help me know you better if I understood it about you?

Vote by paper ballot:

People will vote yes or no for each of the six pieces of legislation on a single paper ballot.

The ballot:

Numbers 1 through 4 petition General Conference to change the prohibitive homosexual language in the Book of Discipline.

Numbers 5 and 6 call for Greater New Jersey to support an action for full inclusion of LGBT people and marriage equality.

1. Strike from the Book of Discipline the phrase we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider the practice incompatible with Christian teaching.

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Strike from the Book of Discipline the phrase Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Strike from the Book of Discipline that homosexuality and performing homosexual unions or weddings is a chargeable offense.

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Strike from the Book of Discipline that United Methodist funds cannot support the acceptance of homosexuality or support homosexual ministries.

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. The Greater New Jersey Conference works for the full inclusion of all people including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons and that we oppose the continued restrictions of church law that restricts the full inclusion of LGBT people.

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. The Greater New Jersey Conference makes a public statement supporting and upholding marriage equality in civil law and that we support clergy spiritually, emotionally and prayerfully who are brought up on charges for performing homosexual unions or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.

☐ Yes ☐ No



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AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN SCHOL



The issue relating to the LGTB community is becoming more visible in our denomination, as the letter I am posting here from Bishop Schol from New Jersey demonstrates. I hope this motivates us at Hempstead to start a conversation at some point. - Pastor Rafael Garcia

Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 Peter 3:8

Sister and Brother Members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference,

Over the next few weeks, I will share with you important information about our Annual Conference Session, May 28-30 in Wildwood, N.J. Our theme is FISH and what it means for us to FISH on the other side. I will be writing to you to share information about how we will engage in:

1. Homosexuality legislation (the subject of this email)
2. Balloting for General and Jurisdictional Delegates
3. Additional legislation and nominations that were not included in the initial pre-conference journal and handbook.

The church is blessed by God with disciples who disagree. God created us and gifted us with different cultures, races, and experiences. From these differences we naturally have ideas that grow out of our individual experiences. Paul and Peter differed in belief and practice of ministry because their calling and experiences were different. Paul focused on the Gentiles and Peter on the Jews which led to different understandings of diets, worship and rites like circumcision. Within the United Methodist Church, we have many different understandings about worship, theology, rites of the church and human sexuality.

In my experience, it is about how we engage each other in

our differences that demonstrates our discipleship maturity. I invite all of us to grow in our engagement with one another about the most challenging concerns within the life of the church. We have six pieces of legislation about homosexuality below. I invite you to read how I will engage us in holy conferencing about this legislation.

I also call you and all of our congregations to pray for the Annual Conference and to receive and bring your congregation’s Mission Fund offering for our opening worship in Wildwood.

I look forward to seeing you while we worship, learn and engage in the matters of the church.
Keep the faith!

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church, Greater New Jersey

Process For Engaging the Six Pieces of Legislation Regarding Homosexuality

There are six pieces of legislation concerning homosexuality submitted for this Annual Conference session. The legislation can be found on pages 86-92 and 97-100 or on the Greater New Jersey website. The conference rules give the bishop a means of holy conferencing rather than using the normal form of debate for handling controversial legislation. The following is the proposed method for the six pieces of legislation submitted for the 2015 Annual Conference.

In consultation with the cabinet and conference leaders, as bishop and spiritual leader I want us to engage in the

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In the Spotlight



Eight youngsters were confirmed during a Service of Confirmation on Sunday, April 26th: **Alex Benjamin, Charlene Brew, Emily Brew, Ryan Dwyer, Zoe Gomes, Chrystelle Gooding, Kyle Pierre-Louis, and Jordan McCullers.** May God bless and enrich them in love, wisdom, and compassion as they continue in their journey of faith.

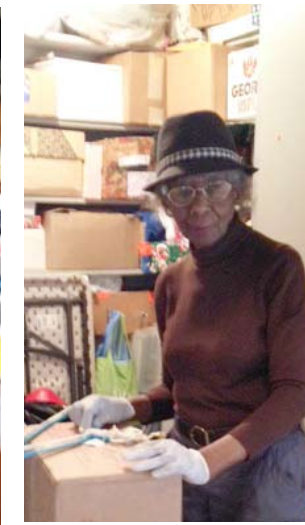
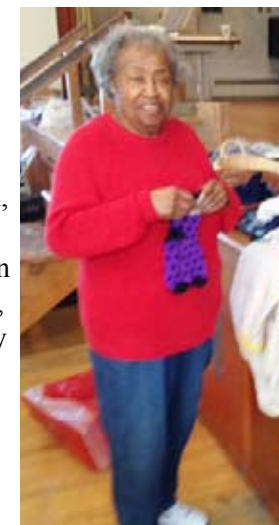
Congratulations!



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

The Spring Rummage Sale was a huge success this year, netting \$2,253.45, and helping many people in the community at the same time. **Many thanks to all volunteers who generously gave time to help:** Errol Foo, Roger Tatem, Van McCuller, Rick Draudt, Roy Bailey, Wayne Redman, Jeff Chase, Winston Robinson, Kevin Gray, Dot Zondag, Miriam Harris, Jennie Connolly, Hyacinth and Clive Daley, Grace Brammer, Sarian Parker, Cynthia Hutchinson, Eileen Bailey, Jean Bearak, Kathy Aikens, Elnora Brevard, Janice Wellington, Cathy and Candace Bahr, Helen Clarke, Evelyn Mazza, Elvie Reynolds, Julia Ross, Crystal, Jackie Morgan, Pearl Miles-Lee, Janice LaLumia, and Keisha and Marcia King.

- Mary Johnson and the Committee

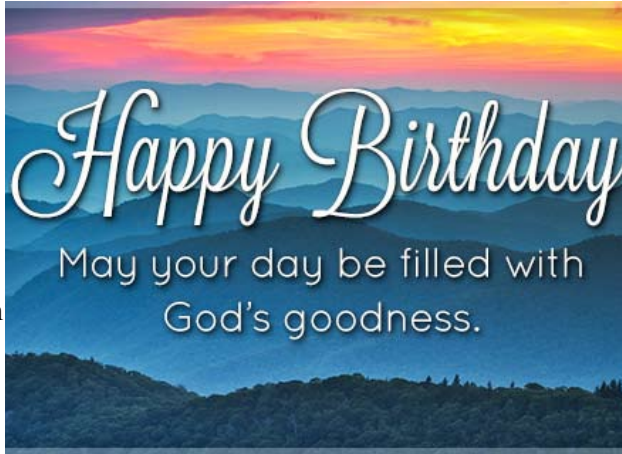




Sunshine Column

JUNE BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joshua Valeris
Nicole Foo/McKenzie
Kevin Gray
Brenda Fleming
Jane Ducreay
Judy Collymore
Clive Daley
Ian Wellington
Denise Harris Proctor
Joseph Angus
Elizabeth Johnson
Lt Cdr Robert Millington
Shirley Stryker
Kevin Brown
Fiona Cambry
Delores Hancock
Robert Dwyer
Doreen Redman



June 2nd
June 5th
June 5th
June 10th
June 11th
June 14th
June 14th
June 15th
June 16th
June 18th
June 19th
June 20th
June 21st
June 23rd
June 23rd
June 25th
June 28th
June 29th

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)

June Calendar - Save the Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Youth Fellowship	6
7 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	8	9 UMW Spring Luncheon, 12 pm at Davenports	10	11	12	13
14 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	15 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m.	16	17	18	19 Youth Fellowship	20 Board of Trustees, 9:00 a.m.
21 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. Happy Father's Day!	22 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	23	24	26	27	28
29 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	30					

UMW



Spring Luncheon
Tuesday, June 9th - 12 - 3 p.m.

The United Methodist Women will be holding their annual Spring Luncheon on Tues., June 9th at the Davenport Restaurant in Mineola, 12-3 p.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$25.00 per person and all are welcome to attend. It is our hope you will join us in fellowship and fun on the 9th. - Jackie Morgan



UMC OF HEMPSTEAD LAUNCHES FREE LUNCH PROGRAM



The UMC of Hempstead hosted its first free lunch program, on **Saturday, April 25, 2015**, which drew in over 50 people from the community and surrounding areas. Guests were treated to home-made soup, burgers, hot dogs, refreshments, dessert, coffee and tea, and other goodies. Many volunteers helped to ensure this first-time event was delicious and successful. The lunch program will be ongoing, held one Saturday each month. Many thanks to the dedicated crew of volunteers!



Announcement, *continued from page 1* -

process outlined below because:

1. I care about our relationship with God and one another and see relationships as primary in the midst of difficult issues.
2. Debate very rarely changes a person's view point.
3. I want us to continue to understand and experience that we can disagree without doing harm to one another, the church and our witness of Christ in the world.
4. I want us to shape our decisions and life together through prayer, singing, conversation and Holy Spirit discernment.

At Annual Conference, I will follow this process:

1. Outline the process for how we will engage the legislation on homosexuality and solicit your support.
2. Share an overview of the United Methodist Church policies concerning homosexuality.
3. Assist people to identify a sharing partner.
4. Present the legislation with one speech for and one speech against.
5. Engage in holy conferencing with a sharing partner.
6. Vote by paper ballot.

Share an overview of the United Methodist Church policies concerning homosexuality:

1. We are not to ordain and appoint self-avowed, practicing homosexuals.
2. Our pastors are not to perform marriage or holy union ceremonies for same gender couples nor are they to be conducted in our churches.
3. The church is not to spend money to promote homosexuality and when homosexuality is discussed, the church's view is to be shared.

Assist people to identify a sharing partner: Members will be asked to identify a sharing partner with someone who has a different view than their own concerning homosexuality. Each person's view point will be identified as a different type of "fish", building on the Annual Conference theme. Members will select their "fish" by identifying with one of three viewpoints listed below:

Striped Bass Fish

I am comfortable with the church's policies on homosexuality.

One or more of these statements may describe your view or belief:

1. Scripture is authoritative and is to be followed as it is written.
2. God created humanity to be heterosexual not homosexual.
3. Marriage should be between a man and a woman.
4. I want the church's policies to continue and will be concerned and may consider leaving if the church changes its policies concerning homosexuality.

Cod Fish

I have views that are moderate, not fully shaped or are in the middle of different viewpoints. I am willing to compromise so that varying views are affirmed.

One or more of these statements may describe your view or belief:

1. I do not feel qualified to judge any person's heart to decide whether they are good or bad in God's sight.
2. I understand that God's grace and love extends to all and I try to accept all people without reservation or judgment.
3. I am in agreement with our church's policies on homosexuality, but I experience important understandings with those who have a different view.
5. My view point is still being shaped about homosexuality
6. I will stay within the United Methodist Church if the policies change
7. I will stay within the United Methodist Church if the policies do not change
8. I am still trying to understand how to interpret scripture concerning homosexuality

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