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The United Methodist Church of Hempstead  
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Hempstead, NY 11550  
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The Parish News (USPS 421-140 )  
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,  
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May 2014



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## REFLECTIONS: NEWS FROM 'DO YOU MIND?'

## MOTHER'S DAY TEA

### The Following People Participated In the Mother's Day Tea:

**Catherine Bahr** - In memory of Catherine Conklin  
**Jean Bearak** - In memory of Evelyn Moffat, Florence Mofatt, Florence Hallock  
**Linford Blagrove** - In memory of Iris Brown  
**Crystal Buckingham-Bruce** - In memory of Ruth Buckingham  
**Beatrice Draudt** - In memory of Bob Rohr  
**Albertha Duffus** - In memory of Nehemiah Haughton  
**Roger Eastman** - In memory of Ruth Eastman  
**Margaret Foo** - In memory of Etta Clarke  
**Miriam Harris** - In memory of Florentino, Frances de Jesus  
**Rosemarie Haye** - In memory of Cynthia May Gayle  
**Louise Josephson** - In memory of Florence Taylor  
**Janice LaLumia** - In memor of Helen J. Vrtacek, Doris Vandeyar, Ismay John  
**Pearl Miles** - In memory of Doris Vandeyar, Ismay John  
**Ann Hunter** - In memory of Edward Hunter  
**Garydiane Morrison** - In memory of William B. Morrison, Bentley M.L. Isaacs  
**Miriam Richards** - In memory of Frances Donaldson, Hattie Richards  
**Jim & Julia Ross** - In memory of David Ross,  
Betty Jean Smith / In honor of Grace and Hugh Brown  
**Dot Zondag** - In memory of Ginny Gunzel / In honor of Jean Bearak  
**Janice Wellington** - In honor of Clarice Washington, Jean Bearak  
**Olive Blagrove** - In honor of Louise Perrin  
**Grace Brown** - In honor of Delrose Banks  
**Dorothy Mowatt** - In honor of Madeline Garcia  
**Elsie Nickoloff** - In honor of daughter, Jane

A mother is an  
*angel*  
in disguise

When my son Tim was in high school, I received a phone call one day from a woman in the community. She wanted to remain anonymous but she said it was very urgent. She said, "I know that your son is struggling with his sexual identity and he is considering taking his own life." I was in disbelief. My wife and I sat down with him and asked him, and he said yes, it was true, he was considering suicide. And what he started to share with us was heartrending.

Tim told us that he had cried himself to sleep many nights, praying to God to make him different, to make him "normal." And he shared with us that it all started when he went with me to an annual conference meeting. There was a debate on the floor about homosexuality and that was when he learned for the very first time that his own church, the only faith he knew, was telling him that he was a freak. That there was no place for him in the church he grew up in. Tim had always been a very good PK: he had been active in the youth group, he preached on youth Sunday and he had the largest contemporary Christian music collection of any person that I knew. Faith was very important to him. And to hear that message from his own church was devastating. When we heard his story, we were devastated, too. We could not hold back our tears and we just hugged him and cried and held him for a very, very long time. And then we told him how much we loved him and how that would never change. We started to affirm him and we said things to him like, you are made in the image of God, God made you this way and you should be proud of who you are. It was a real struggle for him because the spiritual violence inflicted on him by his own church had cut so very deep. But he did get there, he did come to accept himself for who God created him to be – a beautiful gay man.

Years later when he met his fiancé and they started dating

and became serious after a couple of years, he called me. He broke the news, "Dad, I got engaged to Bobby," and that was good news indeed. Then he proceeded to ask me, "Dad, would you do my wedding?" I said, "Absolutely!" How could I possibly have done anything else?

When the day of the wedding came, I was a little nervous. It was my first gay wedding. I had never even attended a same-sex ceremony before, let alone officiated one. In preparation, I had done some research to figure out how to adjust the liturgy and designed a service that was right for this occasion.

It was a beautiful affair! It was deeply meaningful for me personally, but it was equally meaningful to all those who were there. Gathered family and friends were proud to be there to support Tim and Bobby, and overjoyed that they had found each other. The applause was bigger and longer than any I've heard at a heterosexual wedding, an affirmation that "such love is from no other source than from God," as I said in my sermon – no matter what anyone, or any church, says.

What I remember most about that day was the reaction of Bobby's family, a mix of Italian Roman Catholics and Orthodox Greeks. So many of them came up to me afterwards to thank me. They had assumed that Bobby might someday be able to marry and have a service performed by a justice of the peace, but they never dreamed that a religious wedding, officiated by a clergyman, might be possible. That meant the world to them, and they were so grateful.

As everyone knows, I was eventually brought up on official charges for performing this wedding, tried in a church trial, convicted and defrocked. My calendar, however, has never been as full of preaching engagements as it has in the five months since that sentence. God's message, it seems, has been "I'm going to frock you right back up."

- continued on page 6

## WORLD SERVICE HEALTH KIT CAMPAIGN

The United Methodist Church World Service Health Kit Campaign, organized by Jennie Connolly, was held for two weeks in April — it was a great success. Many church members donated to this worthy cause.

Church World Service provides school kits, hygiene kits and baby care kits, and emergency cleanup buckets. Your continuing support of this program is very important and helps to ensure CWS kits are available for immediate response after a disaster.

Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, and gave time to ensure it was a successful campaign!



Pictured (above): Dot Zondag, Miriam Harris, Janice LaLumia, Jennie Connolly, and Jade Page.



Pictured, right: Jennie Connolly and her granddaughter, Jade Page.



### Save the Date!

The UMW Spring Luncheon will be held on Tues., June 10th at 12 Noon at the Davenport Printing Press Restaurant (70 Main Street, Mineola, NY). The cost is \$25. A sign-up sheet will be in the gym starting May 18th. Join us!

## SUNSHINE COLUMN/BIRTHDAYS

### MAY BIRTHDAY LIST – HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- May 1: Grace Brown
- May 2: Bruce Tatem
- May 4: Karen Benjamin
- May 6: David Hancock
- May 7: Yasmin Clarke
- May 8: Vernon Ghullkie
- May 9: Michelle Samuel
- May 11: William Fullard
- May 13: Bryan Bailey
- May 14: Timothy Bishop
- May 15: Wendy Persaud-Tyler
- May 16: Lucy Wright-Brew
- May 17: Claude Gooding
- May 18: Abraham Brew; Chrystelle Ivana Gooding
- May 19: Michael Williams
- May 20: Nadine Brown
- May 22: Dillon Bobb, Justin Bobb, Tamiya Bobb
- May 24: Cathy Bahr
- May 27: Elnora Brevard
- May 29: Marion Czar
- May 31: Nicole Davidson



If your birthday is not on the list, please see Celeste Walwyn, Karen Bonnet, or Mary Johnson



Enjoy a short stack for a tall cause.

You're invited to an Applebee's® Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast to support United Methodist Church of Hempstead

Tickets Cost: \$10.00  
July 12th, 2014 8am-10am

Applebee's  
1300 Corporate Drive  
Westbury, NY 11590

917-583-2559  
pearlmiles@msn.com



Meal includes: Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a beverage, coffee, juice, soda or tea.

## Financial Planning with a Christian Perspective Sower Seeds of Faith and Finance Seminar

Sponsored by New York Annual Conference  
Adult Education Program

### What is Christian Stewardship?

- GAIN all you can, SAVE all you can, GIVE all you can
- Recognizes all life as a trust from God
- Responsible management of all God-given resources
- Dedicate a worthy portion of your time, abilities and money for the advancement of Christ's mission
- Giving is rewarding and enriches your soul
- Therefore we lead by example and it will be so:  
"The more you give the more you receive."

We need at least 20 families of the Hempstead UMC to sign up for this fabulous seminar offered by our Conference from a Christian stewardship perspective. It will be held at UMC of Hempstead on Sat., June 7th, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. See Mrs. Pearl Miles for more information and/or to register.

## 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](mailto:umchempstead2@verizon.net), or drop them off in the church office by June 14th.

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

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)



- continued from page 1

If I had it to do over, I would make the same decision again. How could I possibly do otherwise?

- By Frank Schaefer

Frank Schaefer is a former elder in the Eastern PA Annual Conference and is now speaking and preaching on behalf of the human rights of LGBTQ people. He will be MIND's speaker at this year's annual conference lunch, June 6, 2014.

"We Did" is a project of Methodists in New Directions (MIND) dedicated to making visible our ministries to LGBTQ people and encouraging others in the UMC to transcend the institutional requirement to discriminate and make their ministries visible, too. It is part of the Biblical Obedience movement sweeping across the United Methodist Church. You can read all the "We Did" stories here. We invite you to submit your own story to "We Did."

### OPEN HOUSE WELCOMES FRIENDS OF UMC OF HEMPSTEAD

Rev. Garcia and his lovely wife, Madeline, and their family welcomed members of the church at their recent Open House on May 17th. More than 68 parishioners attended and enjoyed the camaraderie, as well as the delicious food and refreshments.



### NEW ROLE FOR CLAUDE GOODING

Dr. Claude I. Gooding was appointed as the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) for the NYAC, effective July 1, 2014. Dr. Gooding will fill the position held by Reverend Ann Pearson who is retiring after serving 13 years in that role. He is a man of deep faith and is an active member of the Hempstead United Methodist Church. He serves as Finance and Stewardship Committee Chair and the Chair of the Committee on Religion and Race. Active in missions, he recently shared in an educational support initiative in Sierra Leone.



Dr. Gooding holds a Doctor of Management degree from the University of Maryland. He has served as a consultant in management and leadership training and spent eight years as Commissioner of Community Development for a municipal agency on Long Island. He earned his American Institute of Certified Planners certificate in 2010.

The DCM is the Chief Program Officer of the Conference and executes programs and ministries to strengthen the United Methodist connection with churches, clergy and laity of all ages. Dr. Gooding will bring his rich management and leadership development experience to the DCM position, which focuses on equipping leaders and churches for the transformation of communities and lives. He will have supervisory responsibilities supporting Lynda Gomi, Assistant to the DCM and Dr. Derrick Lewis Noble, Coordinator of Congregational Development and Revitalization. We will formally welcome Dr. Gooding at the New York Annual Conference, June 4-7 at Hofstra University.

*All my prayers,  
Bishop Martin D. McLee*



## Save the Dates - June 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6	7 "Financial Planning with a Christian Perspective," 9-11:30 a.m. at UMC of Hempstead (breakfast provided)
8	9	10 UMW Luncheon, 12 Noon at Davenport Press Restaurant, Mineola	11 Reflections with Seniors, 11 a.m.	12	13 "A Journey to the Potter's House" at Bayport UM Church, with Michael Ferris. Call Jean, 631-626-1263 for information.	14 Flag Day
15	16 Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.	17 Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22	23 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	24	25 Reflections with Seniors, 11 a.m.	26	27	28
29	30					

# SPRING RUMMAGE SALE – MAY 3, 2014

The **Spring Rummage Sale**, held on Saturday, May 3rd, attracted many people from the community who had the opportunity to take home household items, clothing, small appliances, furniture, fresh baked goods, linens and bedding, and many other treasures. The bake sale alone raised a total of \$168.00; the net profit from the Rummage Sale was \$1,698.00. The only expense was the cost of bags used to take treasures home.

Coordinators of the event, **Mary Johnson** and **Royston Bailey**, had a great deal of help from the Parish family. Many thanks to the following members for their dedication and assistance: **Cathy Bahr, Roger Tatem, Janice LaLumia,**

**Evelyn Mazza, Elnora Brevard, Pearl Miles-Lee, Miriam Harris, Miriam Richards, Marion Harris, Jennie Connolly, Helen Clarke, Julia Ross, Dot Zondag, Roger Eastman, Jean Bearak, Marcia Chase, Duncan Chase, Peggy Peterson, Veronica Hamilton, Hyacinth Daley, Clive Daley, Daniella Dwyer, Royston Bailey, Beth Davidson, Marcia King, Keisha King, Garydiane Morrison, Davida Wright, Elvia Reynolds, Aldith Swaby, and Annette Harris.**

The Rummage Sale is a semi-annual event/fundraiser for the Hempstead United Methodist Church - it was launched more than 60 years ago and continues to be a success.

