



MAY 2017

VOLUME 76-No. 79

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are on the heels of Pentecost, another important event which, in some circles, is known as the birthday of the Christian Church (Acts 2:1-4).

Pentecost literally means “the fiftieth day.” In the Jewish faith, it comes exactly fifty days after the Passover and was the festival that celebrated the completion of the harvest (Shavuot).

In the Christian community, it is the last day of the Easter Season and commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that had been promised to the disciples by their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Pentecost is celebrated as a festival of victory. That day, the disciples began to witness to people from their own culture and others who had gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration of the “Feast of Weeks.”

The real power of Pentecost was displayed when Peter began to speak and 3,000 souls were saved. The second chapter of the book of Acts shows how these first believers were absorbed in the “apostles’ teachings and fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers” (Acts 2:42). What a way in which these converts were nourished!



This coming together of the believers resulted in a supportive community. They took care of those within the fellowship, reached out to others, and responded especially to those who were in need. Their fellowship grew and was strengthened daily, and God was at work in each of their lives. No wonder they found favor with all the people. The prayer experience in the Upper Room had transformed them, and it had become a way of life for them. They had a desire for spiritual food, ate together, praised God together, and even pooled their resources. This was a model community.

The Church today needs to recapture the spirit and fervor that existed among those first Christians. Pray that the Lord will anoint us afresh and fit us for the task that is already within our grasp.

Yours in His Service,
St. Clair A. Samuel



In the Spotlight



Ryan Dwyer

I spent my spring break on a community service trip, “Tuesday’s Children Helping Heals Trip,” to the Bateyes region of the Dominican Republic. Tuesday’s Children is a 9/11 nonprofit group consisting of families of first responders. The local contact was Rustic Pathways, an international community service student travel group.

The trip to the Dominican Republic was one of the most amazing things I’ve ever had the privilege to do, and it truly helped me to open my eyes to the world outside of my “little bubble” here on Long Island. It allowed me to further appreciate the blessings God has given me in my life, since my experience included meeting people that were less fortunate than me. The people of Batey Monte Coca were extremely impoverished, however, they were better off than some other Bateyes (towns that house sugar cane workers) that were still under complete control of the often corrupt sugar industry. What was ironic about the experience was that although the town seemed as if it was constructed haphazardly, and the villagers were the poorest people I’ve ever met, they were also some of the most content. They had grown up since child-



hood in the same downtrodden village and didn’t know what a better life was like, therefore, they were happy. I also came to learn how tightly-knit the people were, and how welcoming they were to outsiders like me.

The projects my group and I worked on in Monte Coca were all construction based. We continued building a house, which was already started by previous groups and the villagers; building a latrine (there was no indoor plumbing in the town), and laying down a floor in a home where there was previously dirt. By the end of the service portion of the week, we were beginning the roofing of the house; the latrine was completed, and the cement flooring was finished.

As we only had two people in our group to help translate English to Spanish, and vice-versa, my basic Spanish I learned in school truly

helped me to better connect with the locals.

I was able to talk to the men as we worked, and I played silly hand games with the children, whose mothers were more than willing to let them talk to us, and in three days, I established friendships. Also, since the country’s majority is Catholic, and Easter was approaching in the Dominican Republic, there were special Holy Week celebrations throughout the week. They cooked us a traditional Dominican Holy Week dessert one day, and we celebrated with games, Bachata dance music, and my favorite, basketball.

In the end, the connections I made with the people of Monte Coca and with my peers in my group, left a lasting effect on the way I perceive the world.

- Submitted by Ryan Dwyer





May Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Rummage Sale 9-2 pm
7	8	9 UMW Executive Meeting, 10:30 am	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20 Trustees, 10 am
21 UMC of Hempstead 195th Anniversary celebration 	22 Church Council, 7:30 pm	23	24	25	26	27 Finance Meeting, 10 am HFB, 11-1 pm
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

*"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."
- St. Augustine*

POETIC REFLECTIONS: COMPARE

A Mom is like a FLOWER, that opens with the dawn
 She continues to share her beauty with all
 Then refreshes herself in readiness for the next morn
 A Mom is like a CLOAK, protecting our bodies from
 the rain
 Covering us with all her love
 As she nourishes and soothes our pain
 A Mom is like a WALL CLOCK that everyone can see
 Time passes by, yet life goes on
 Whether we're bonded or free



A Mom is like a GUARDIAN, doing for us what's right
 Caring, Teaching, Guiding, Correcting
 From near, far away, by day and night
 A Mom is like A DREAM come true
 You come awake but the dream's not gone
 Mom's always there throughout the year
 Steadfast - since the day you were born

A VERY WONDERFUL MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL
 Janice. W / May - 2017



EASTER SUNDAY AT OUR CHURCH



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.





HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH CELEBRATES TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Hempstead Fellowship Brunch celebrated its two-year anniversary this past April. Under the guidance of Ruth Robinson and her team of dedicated volunteers, the HFB ministry has been serving delicious hot meals and bringing comfort and care to residents in the community since April 2015.

On April 22nd, the Brunch committee served more than 83 people. On this special occasion, the Hicksville Rotary Club joined the celebration (they have been serving the HFB guests for several months now). Due to the generosity of Hicksville Rotary Club members, Mrs. Kalpana and Mr. Bansi Shah, the church received a brand new commercial stove, which replaced the old stove in the Social Hall kitchen. In the last several months, the group provided monetary donations, and served guests with compassion and fellowship. During the April celebration, they gave out 100 bags filled with assorted fruit to guests, who gratefully accepted this gift.

In addition to the festivities, a gift basket was given to a happy family; donated socks were given out to the guests; and a blood pressure screening group was on hand to provide these much-needed services to many.

Quddus Mohammed, a member of the Hicksville Rotary Club, said he is very happy to help a ministry “that promotes peace and community-building, as well as friendships among multi-ethnic people.”

Pictured right (L-R): Ruth Robinson and Christine Thomson.



Pictured above (L-R): Bibi Boucicaut, Mary Johnson, and Elnora Brevard.



Pictured right (L-R): Ruth Robinson and Akaash Patel of the Hicksville Rotary Club.

Pictured below (L-R): Akaash Patel, Judy Quinn, Chrystelle Gooding and Zoe Gomes.



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes, Quddus Mohammed and Judy Quinn.



HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

APRIL 2017



Blood pressure screening services were on hand for guests.



Pictured above: Garydiane Morrision, Ruth Robinson, and Bibi Boucicaut gave a gift basket to a happy family at the April HFB.



Pictured above (L-R): Janice Wellington and Pauline Lewis show off the new commercial stove donated by the Rotary Club.



Pictured above: Juliet Martin (middle) with Quddus Mohammed and a fellow member of the Hicksville Rotary Club.



Many guests enjoyed a hot meal, dessert and fruit at the brunch.



Pictured above: Members of the Hicksville Rotary Club with 6 Ruth Robinson, as the group dedicated the new stove.



Sunshine Column

MAY BIRTHDAY LIST – HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Grace Brown	May 1st
Bruce Tatem	May 2nd
Karen Benjamin	May 4th
David Hancock	May 6th
Yasmin Clarke	May 7th
Vernon Ghullkie	May 8th
Michelle Samuel	May 9th
William Fullard	May 11th
Bryan Bailey	May 13th
Wendy Persaud-Tyler	May 15th
Lucy Wright-Brew	May 16th
Claude Gooding	May 17th



Abraham Brew	May 18th
Chrystelle Ivana Gooding	May 18th
Michael Williams	May 19th
Nadine Brown	May 20th
Dillon Bobb	May 22nd
Justin Bobb	May 22nd
Tamiya Bobb	May 22nd
Cathy Bahr	May 24th
Elnora Brevard	May 27th
Marion Czar	May 29th
Nicole Davidson	May 31st

*Age is strictly a case
of mind over matter.
If you don't mind, it
doesn't matter.
Happy Birthday!*

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 May 16th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed in the first week of June. 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)**

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead
"Parish News" at 40 Washington Street,
Hempstead, NY 11550
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The Parish News (USPS 421-140)
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,
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Telephone: 516-485-6363 Fax: 516-485-4803

May 2017 Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



Mother's Day Stay at Home Tea

Everyone has received their invitation to the Tea. It is an opportunity remember or honor someone special in your life. On Mother's Day there will be a display of all the contributions received (not amount), for whom, by whom. The funds received will benefit the INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) which helps feed the hungry in our community. If you didn't receive this invitation or need another, there is a supply on the table in the narthex.

Golden Cross Sunday - May 14th

Golden Cross Sunday is an opportunity for the church to lift up, celebrate and support the many health and welfare ministries in our annual conference. Over the years, the voluntary offering taken is divided among the Methodist-related homes for the aged and other institutions: Anchor House, Bethel Methodist Home, Brooklyn Methodist Home, Binghamton Children's Home, Methodist Homes of CT and Riverdale. Please give what you can.

Church World Service

Thank you to everyone who donated much-needed toiletries for the health kits, as well as monetary donations; and to everyone who helped pack the kits. This year, 136 health kits were collected and given to Church World Service. Your help was gratefully appreciated.

- Jenny Connolly

JOIN US IN A KICKOFF CELEBRATION OF

Our Church's Anniversary



195 YEARS

May 21st ~ 10 am

Combined Spanish and English Worship Service followed by an extended Coffee Hour. Donations of finger foods, pastries and dips are needed, as well as volunteers for our decorating committee. A sign-up sheet will be displayed in the gym on Sundays. For additional information, contact Carol Hicks, carolhicks@optimum.net, or Charmaine Fields.



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Pastor: St. Clair A. Samuel