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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

October 2014

COMING SOON!

CHURCH FAIR

SATURDAY - November 8, 2014
9:00 AM until 2:00 PM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD

40 WASHINGTON STREET
HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550
Rev. Rafael Garcia, Pastor



FEATURING

Jewelry
Fresh Vegetables
Baked Goods
Cards
Holiday Items

A Handmade Variety Table



COFFEE ROOM

from 9:00 AM



until 11:00 AM



OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 75-No. 52

SHARING IN FAITH: JESUS IS LOVE



Ten years ago, I sat in the pews of Union United Methodist Church. Now I stand in its pulpit. Then I worshipped as a member of the denomination's first predominantly black American "reconciling congregation." Today, I serve as pastor to the people who nurtured my faith as a college student. To say that I was surprised when my bishop called two years ago would be an understatement. Never in a thousand years could I have dreamed this. Already, I have experienced many joys and many challenges in ministry at Union — some anticipated, others completely unexpected. I knew that my first funeral would be difficult and my first baptism would be pure bliss. But, never in a million years could I have foreseen the anguish that I would experience as a pastor because of the church's struggles with human sexuality.

Questions

What do you really say to a woman in her twilight years who does not fully love herself because she does not embrace her sexuality? How do you help wipe away the tears of a young man who cries himself to sleep every night because he's in love with another man? When does a married same-gender couple start enjoying their holy matrimony, free from the judgment of family and church? These are questions that keep me up at night. Still, so many times I have seen relief in the eyes of men and women, old and young, who have finally found a black church that truly welcomes them and their sexuality. I've witnessed the sheer surprise when a woman introduces her wife to Union and our members don't blink. I've seen tears flow as LGBTQ folk find the spiritual home for which they've been searching for years. But, I have also felt the utter disappointment — and the confusion — of a gay couple that asks about getting married in our sanctuary. I always imagined that being a pastor would mean extending God's blessing to those who yearn for authentic relation-

ship. "The Lord bless you and keep you" (Numbers 6:24). But our denomination tells me to do otherwise. It's a hard thing not to bless the same people I pray with, study the Bible with, break bread with, and fellowship with. Actually, it breaks my heart.

Faces and stories

Sexuality is not merely an "issue" to be debated. This issue has faces and stories, disappointments and agonies, hopes and prayers.

Ministry is more about people than policies. Although the people of Union are not all of one mind, there is something that all of us have come to know: our DNA is made up of the double helix of biblical faith and social justice. Since the congregation's beginnings in 1796, we have been abolitionists, de-segregationists, women's rights advocates, civil rights activists, anti-apartheid protesters and economic-equality seekers.

All these issues are tied up in Christ's invitation for us to be reconciled and set free. So as we struggle to find our way forward as a congregation, we have covenanted to stay at the table as we seek a table for all. We gather as broken vessels around a broken loaf as one people. Because too many people have been hurt, we have decided no longer to fight over the issue. We believe there is still a "more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31).

A contradiction

Walking this road as Union's pastor has been challenging, complicated and occasionally contradictory. The painfully ironic thing is that I have been appointed by the general superintendent to a "reconciling church" and then ordered by the denomination not to pastor all my people fairly. As

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SPONSORED BY THE UMC OF HEMPSTEAD, 40 WASHINGTON STREET
HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550

Volunteers are needed to ensure the success of our Rummage Sale. This event is a church-at-large fundraiser, so all hands are needed. You can help in either the morning, the afternoon or in the evening.

We are organizing tables in the gym on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; set up is on Tuesday evening, September 30th. Dismantling will take place after the Rummage Sale at 3 p.m. Strong men are needed for set-up and breakdown (Tuesday night and Saturday afternoon).

You can start by bringing in all of your treasures. Put them behind the curtain on the stage anytime.

We will also have a bake sale and would like everyone to donate home-baked goods (not bakery). A sign-up sheet will be in the gym to provide the days/times you can volunteer.

Thank you!

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

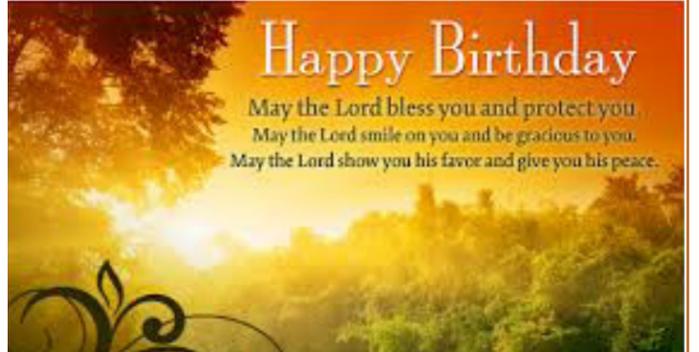
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH ~ 9AM TO 2 PM

Sunshine Column

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- October 3rd: James Ross
- October 6th: Gloria Howard
- October 8th: Miriam Richards
- October 10th: George Richards
- October 11th: Marsha Powell-Williams
- October 12th: Ditha Clarke
- October 14th: Gladys Parker, Michelle McCullers
- October 15th: Royston Bailey, Bonita Johnson
- October 16th: Nicole Boucicaut, Joshua Boucicaut, Jade Valeris
- October 17th: Phyllis Harper
- October 24th: Ashia Thomson
- October 25th: Damali Bernadotte
- October 27th: Alexandrine Bucknor
- October 29th: Nicole Bucknor
- October 31st: Maurice Bailey



If your birthday is not on the list, please see Celeste Walwyn, Karen Bonnet, 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: umchempstead2@verizon.net, or drop them off in the church office by October 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the third week of November -- 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)



THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PLAN MINISTRIES FOR UPCOMING MONTHS



The United Methodist Women recently met at the UMC of Hempstead to plan their ministries and activities for the remainder of this year and the upcoming year. The group meets twice a month on Tuesdays in the Parlor.

The next UMW meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th, 10:30 a.m., will feature Rev. Garcia as the guest speaker. Bring your own sandwich – dessert, coffee, and tea will be served. All are welcome to attend.

In future months, the UMW will provide guest speakers on a wide range of topics to help broaden women's spiritual and humanitarian ministries.

The UMW is hosting a Church Fair in the gym on Saturday, November 8, 2014, 9 to 2 p.m. Stop in and you will discover an assortment of baked goods, fresh vegetables, handmade crafts, jewelry, holiday gift items, and other treasures!

Please check the bulletin and *Parish News* for other important dates to remember.

Pictured above (Left to Right): Back row, Garydiane Morrison, Elnora Brevard, Jean Bearak, Mary Johnson, and Janice LaLumia. Sitting: Jackie Morgan, Miriam Harris.

October Calendar - Save the Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Set-up, Rummage Sale	2 Set-up, Rummage Sale Bible Study, 7:30 p.m	3 Set-up, Rummage Sale Youth Fellow- ship, 7:00 p.m.	4 Rummage Sale, 9-2 p.m. (Gym)
5 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	6	7	8	9 Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.	10	11
12 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	13 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m. Columbus Day	14 UMW Exec. Board meeting, 10:30 am Lunch to follow, 12-2 pm, Gym	15	16 Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.	17 Youth Fellowship, 7:00 p.m.	18 Board of Trustees, 9 a.m.
19 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m..	20 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23 Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.	24	25 Harvest Fair, Merrick UMC 9-3:30 p.m.
26 International Luncheon (after Worship Service) Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	27	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween!	

Notes and News

I would like to thank the church congregation for sponsoring me in the AHRC walk-a-thon on Sept. 14, 2014. There were 1,200 people who walked. The walk was very personal to me because I did it to support my sister, Joanne Peterson, who has Multiple Sclerosis. The distance was 3.1 miles and I finished it, raising \$664.00. If anyone would still like to contribute, you can send donations to AHRC Nassau Foundation, 189 Wheatley Rd., Glen Head, NY 11545, or see me during coffee hour. Thank you again for your support. - Candace Bahr





HISPANIC MEN'S ANNUAL DAY APART LUNCHEON



several outstanding workshops, including one on "Unity."

Fifty-six people from the L.I. West., L.I. East, and Metropolitan NY districts attended The Hispanic "First Annual Men's Day Apart," held at the Corona United Methodist Church. The event featured a delicious luncheon prepared by the ladies of the church, an interactive presentation from the Rev. Arturo Maine; as well as helpful dialogue from the Rev. Beltram who was the inspiration behind the first-time event.

"Everyone was inspired by the presentations," said Roy Bailey, who attended the event.

"Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie provided an excellent presentation on the Mission Project done by the youth ambassadors, and there were

The Hispanic UMM raised \$212.00 from this event for the Clean Water Project, an important initiative that will bring clean water to Africa and help many people.

The Clean Water Project works with local partners like the United Methodist Men to provide access to clean water as well as hygiene and sanitation programs. These training programs greatly reduce the disease burden in their communities, allowing villagers to increase their productivity and begin working themselves out of poverty.

The Second Hispanic Men's Day Apart will take place at the Corona UMC this Sat., Sept. 27th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome!

Photos, courtesy of Roy Bailey.

FOUR WORMS IN CHURCH (FOUR WORMS AND A LESSON TO BE LEARNED!)

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good, clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol.....Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke....Dead.

The third worm in chocolate syrup....Dead.

The fourth worm in good, clean soil....Alive!

The Minister asked the congregation,

"So, my friends? What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine, sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said,

"As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!" That pretty much ended the service.



Article, courtesy of Jean Bearak

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a black man in the United States, I know that the "separate but equal" thing simply does not work. So I've decided not to be a "Jim Crow" pastor. I simply do not know how. As the pastor of a historic, justice-seeking congregation in Boston's South End — the city center of queer life — I am simply doing what I must do. Recently, a longtime Union member revealed to me: "Pastor, I know that extending marriage equality is the right thing to do. I was raised a certain way and it is taking me longer to get where I need to be. But if someone is 'good enough' to serve here and tithe here, then that member should be married here too."

Can't discriminate

You see, I do not know how to discriminate against my own members because I vowed in my ordination "to seek peace, justice and freedom for all people." This is not so much the position of an activist, but rather of a pastor who answered a call. My call and my vow are "to lead the people of God to faith in Jesus Christ." The folk in my pews, who sing in the choirs, and place hard-earned money in the offering, are searching for unconditional love in a world full of broken promises.

Indeed we all are

One of Union's favorite songs is the 1980 Commodores hit, "Jesus Is Love." Without fail, every time it's sung, the congregation is up swaying with uplifted hands. Before long, worshippers have joined in the refrain: "Yeah, yeah, Jesus loves you... If you call Him, He will answer." In many ways, this song reflects who we are as a radically welcoming people. And it is the foundation of how I live as a pastor. God, who is love, sends us Jesus: love's perfect incarnation. Our prayer remains the song's opening lyrics: "Father, help your children." All of us.

The Rev. Jay Williams, Boston, Mass.

Posted July 22, 2014

UMC.org

The People of the United Methodist Church

Forgiveness (Based on 'The Prodigal Son')

*A rich man had two sons
He loved them both the same
They worked alongside their father
Until one wanted to find fame*

*He asked for his share of the fortune
He felt he could make it on his own
Saying 'goodbye' to his family
Sure made him feel "All Grown"*

*He traveled far! Made new friends!
With whom he shared his wealth
After all he owned was gone*

It was obvious - none cared about his health

He decided to return home

And to his father plead

Father! MY father! I beg of you - Please!

I've wasted all your money

Just because of my greed

I've been so thirsty and hungry

I've lived just like all swine do

I beg of you - "Please take me back!"

I'll work as your 'hired hands' do

His father met and hugged him

Not listening to all his pleas

He gave him a party - the best of everything

Including 'HIS FORGIVENESS' - the very best deed.

J. Wellington