

The Lamplighter

DECEMBER 2012

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AMITYVILLE, NY

ADVENT

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Traditional Israeli folk song



JALEN MARC LEBOUR

10 year-old son of Marcia Barbee-LeBour and Fitzgerald LeBour was baptized on November 25. Standing with Jalen by the baptismal banner are his godparents, Jason and Rashelle McFadden.



PASTOR LOUISE

In the home stretch for the November Lamplighter there was a monster storm. Our priorities changed over night. The church and parsonage lost some siding and electricity was off for about three days: inconveniences, nothing more. For many in the congregation and in this area, it is far beyond an inconvenience. Homes flooded, furniture and other possessions ruined. The list seems endless. The grief is deep and may not yet be recognized. It will pop up at unexpected times and may dig up old memories of loss.

Our congregation has been giving assistance where we have been able. We don't have a formal count of members who suffered significant loss or hardship (due to prolonged outages). I can identify over twenty families in our congregation. We are gradually finding out about persons who have had to move to family or friends. Communication has been frustratingly difficult.

A week after the storm we opened up our church on Monday and Tuesday (November 5 & 6). Initially the idea was to give people a place of warmth and light. They could charge electronic devices and find camaraderie in others facing similar crises. Soon, however, the hospitality expanded to homemade soup, bagels, and drinks. Some came by and stayed only to get warm and fed. Others were there longer in animated conversation or lively board games. The Church Attic has been liberal in giving clothes to people in need, coffee and a listening ear. We gathered up cleaning supplies, drinks, and food to take to St. Martin's for them to distribute.

On at least three occasions, members set up a "station" in Amity Harbor where food, coffee, and sweets were given out freely. One Sunday afternoon we were not far from a Red Cross truck. To reach as many as possible they gave us some of their items, like laundry bags with flashlights, ready-to-eat meals, and cleaning supplies. There is more about these occasions of outreach in the Stewardship article.

Suddenly the reality of Thanksgiving sank in and plans were quickly laid to have a community Thanksgiving dinner. Turkeys were showing up at our door, spontaneous delivery of bakery bread, cases of water and soda, and volunteers! Bakers and cooks of sweet potatoes, cornbread, gravy, green bean casserole, pumpkin and apple pies produced the traditional fare.

We hosted about 35 people—members and non-members, including folk from Community UMC, Massapequa. It was a beautiful giving of thanks.

Teams of relief volunteers are being coordinated out of Community UMC, Massapequa. Hicksville Methodist has been providing housing, with our getting some of the overflow. We have housed twelve people who have come to help with clean-up. We hosted two volunteers at the parsonage from New Life Community UMC, in New Fairfield, Connecticut. During the week of November 18 we had up to ten people sleeping in the church on air mattresses. Eight of them were from Newtown UMC, Sandy Hook, Connecticut and two from North Carolina. Because we have no showers in the church, Big Al's, a large gym on Merrick Road, allowed them to take their showers there. The outpouring of giving whatever gift, resource, or time people have has been remarkable.

We have taken up several offerings to help buy and equip a disaster relief trailer that the Long Island East district needs to buy. The amount raised from our congregation is \$701. The offerings are quite generous, given the number of people dealing with very large bills from destruction during the storm.

One of the greatest gifts we have been privileged to give has been time and a listening presence. Many have said that it could have been so much worse. Keeping a larger perspective is part of the healing. At the same time, the losses are more than monetary. Hundreds of adjustments are on-going and Christmas will be very different this year for thousands. People who walked down to their basement which was flooded after Superstorm Sandy often were hit with a sense of "this can't be!" In the tradition of choosing between crying and laughing, there was an opportunity for the laughing. When the Bedell family found their basement flooded, there was an unexpected sight: floating on top of the water in their basement was Noah's Ark.

I pray that people are rebuilding wisely both literally and spiritually. There have been many God-moments in my experience and for others as I have heard people tell about what they have endured. During Advent we often speak of Emmanuel, "God with Us". Indeed God is!



Worship Committee

BY LINDA THOMPSON, CHAIR

We were enjoying a beautiful October; the weather was great and the trees were beginning to shed their summer colors and dressing in their brightest colors of orange, yellow and red. Then we were visited by Sandy who blew in and out leaving a trail of devastation behind; no electric, flooded homes, lost cars but fortunately no lost lives within our area. It will take several months for members of our congregation and community to return to normal living in their homes. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone as we begin to prepare for the Advent season. If you would like to become part of this team please do not hesitate to join us, we meet on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm in Amanda's room. Next meeting is December 3rd. New ideas are always welcome.

WOW! What more could anyone say about Nathan Carlisle and his magnificent voice. We were so fortunate to be honored by his presence and sharing his wonderful talent with us; what a magnificent voice, I don't know about anyone else but it certainly gave me the chills. Although he sang in our service in late September, it is still fresh in my mind.

Our Charge Conference was on October 6th at Community United Methodist Church in Massapequa @ 9:30 am. Pastor Louise, Robyn, Tracie and the confirmands used a musical presentation to share with the other churches our work during this past year. They were great and certainly kept everyone's attention. We were a small group but at the same time a commanding presence with our report to the district superintendent.

World communion Sunday, October 7th, we had a guest preacher; none other than our own Pastor Dick Johns. He helped us understand Jesus' thoughts on divorce by explaining a passage some of us had difficulty with. We had refreshments shared by members from their country of origin. Hope to see more participants next year; this was a holiday weekend.

October 14th we were happy to honor Pastor Louise and her husband and express thanks and appreciation for their service every day. It was a time to take note of the things pastors do that we don't see and how their lives are impacted by each and every member of the congregation; both spiritually and physically.

Laity Sunday was October 21st. Once again Bob Silz led us in worship. It was a wonderful service and gave us insight into why and how we should use our gifts to share the Word of God with everyone we meet; thus following Jesus' example of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

The handbell choir performed at Broadlawn Manor Nursing home on Saturday, November 17th. The residents were a wonderful audience.

November 18th we celebrated, what I hope will be, our first annual Staff Appreciation Day. Several members of our congregation shared thoughts, thanks and appreciation for the dedication and commitment displayed by Andres Aguilera, Linda Cohen and Robyn Hyland. Members of our church family provided individual notes of thanks to each of the honorees. Following worship we enjoyed cake and coffee in their honor. Our staff is motivated to provide worshipful and inspiring services each week and a clean space in which to have it. We are grateful for that.

November 20th was our annual cluster thanksgiving service held at Farmingdale United Methodist Church. This year we have new members of our cluster; we are now Amityville First, Simpson - Bethpage UMCs, Massapequa Community, Grace UMC in Lindenhurst and Seaford UMC. Non-perishable food items were brought to assist the Farmingdale Soup kitchen.

November 25th we celebrated the Church Year service with participation from the youth of our church. It is always a pleasure to have their participation.

December 2nd we will hang the greens and prepare the church for the coming season. As has become our custom, we will have a soup and bread luncheon to provide sustenance for the workers. Plan to stay and help. It is fun and helps beautify our church.

The annual ecumenical Advent Lessons and Carols service will be on Sunday, December 9, at 3:00 pm. The offering will benefit the food pantry at St. Martin's. We will host the service as we did last year. Readers and choirs will be from St. Paul Lutheran, St. Mary's Episcopal, St. Martin's Roman Catholic, Simpson UMC, and FUMC.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight service with communion will be held on Monday, December 24 at 5:00 pm. Handbells will play from 4:45 - 5:00 pm. Come join us and bring family and friends to help celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Have you noticed something missing from the Sanctuary? The worship team removed all the old bibles in preparation for receiving the NRSV edition. They are here; we need to make up the face plates and then they will be ready to be placed in the pews in both the chapel and the sanctuary. If you ordered one for yourself please see me if I have not distributed it to you and I will be happy to do so.

If we can make your spiritual journey better or more meaningful please let us know. We are open to suggestions, requests or both.

Reaching Out at Christmas

by Nicole Tierno

Looking to contribute to something meaningful this holiday season? Every year the Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) provides valuable support services to hundreds of children and their non-offending family members who have been involved in child abuse cases.

FUMC will once again be participating in the annual holiday drive to help make the holidays a little brighter for these families. There will be a collection box in the Narthex for you to provide new, unwrapped items to children of all ages (newborn to 18 years) and their parents. The deadline is December 9th. Family gifts are also greatly appreciated. Perhaps a FUMC cookbook would make a nice gift! Don't have time to shop? The organization also collects gifts cards and monetary donations (checks can be made out to CCAN) to shop for the families. Having worked for CCAN for many years and having witnessed first hand how the holiday drive truly blesses those involved, I encourage you to be a part of this effort!

Below are some gift suggestions:

Toys

Gift Cards (Target, Old Navy, H&M, Kohl's, Bath & Body Works)

Arts and Crafts

Board Games

Clothes, PJs, Accessories-Hats, Gloves, Scarves,

Socks, Shoes

Makeup, Nail Polish

Shower Gels/Lotions

Jewelry

Sports Items

Books, Book Marks, Journals



The staff would like to thank the Congregation for honoring us on "Staff Appreciation Sunday" and for the delicious cake everyone enjoyed during fellowship.

We each received many cards from members thanking us for our service to First United Methodist Church. Some of these cards shared a memory of something we did for them that was truly appreciated. Each of us puts in many extra hours over what we are compensated. Often we are working behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly as well as preparing our building to be a welcome environment to all who enter our doors. The extras we perform are part of sharing our time and talents.

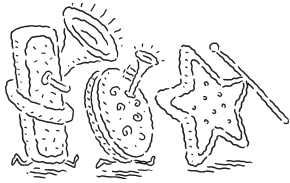
Although FUMC is not the home church for each of us, it is our 2nd church home and we each feel connected in a special way to this congregation.

We appreciated the recognition more than words can say.

With gratefulness and heartfelt thanks,
Andres Aguilera, Linda Cohen & Robyn Hyland

Photos found after "Sandy"

Amityville Public Library has photos that have been found after the flood waters receded. Any photos you recover can be given to Amityville Public Library and they will have them available for those trying to find some of their missing family photos.



Cookie Walk

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
FOLLOWING THE 10 AM SERVICE.

Fundraiser for UMYF

Cookies will be \$6.00/lb.

Homemade cookie donations are needed.
Sign-up sheet on the narthex table.



Sunday, December 9 @ 3 pm
Hosted by FUMC

The Amityville Ecumenical Churches will
present a Service of Advent Lessons & Carols.

*Free Will Offering to benefit St. Martin of Tours
Outreach Program and Food Pantry.*

CHRISTMAS EVE

*Special music presented by our Handbell Choirs
from 4:45 - 5:00 pm.*

Candlelight Service with Communion
Monday, December 24 • 5:00 pm

Christmas LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 30, 2012
10 am



Sunday, January 6, 2013
3:00 pm

at First United Methodist Church

Free will offering to benefit Disaster Relief
and FUMC Handbell program

Refreshments will be served in Ireland Hall
following concert

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 23
10:00 am Service

Dress rehearsal • Sat., Dec. 22
8:30 am - 10 am

This is for children and youth from the
2nd through the 8th grades.

Sign-up Sheet on Narthex Table.



Church Membership

“PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, AND WITNESS”

By Your Prayers

PEGGY VAN NOSTRAND & FAMILY AT THE DEATH OF LEROY VAN NOSTRAND

LUKE MAZZILLI (HIP SURGERY)

WES REINHARDT (OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION NURSING CENTER) CARE

NELL RASMUSSEN

VICTIMS OF HURRICANE/SUPER STORM "SANDY"

MAXYNE MILLER

DOROTHY LUNT

DONALD AUPERIN

KATE AND JAMES PETERSON AND FAMILY AT THE DEATH OF JAMES' MOTHER ALICE PETERSON

THE FAMILY OF JOHN C. LAMARCA, JR. (CHRIS)

THE FAMILY OF PETER GAROFOLO

*Let perpetual light
shine upon you.*

LEROY VAN NOSTRAND

0-24-1917 - OCT. 28, 2012

HUSBAND OF MARGARET (PEGGY)

FATHER OF DAVID, JUDITH AND GAYLE

PETER GAROFOLO

1-4-1927 - NOV. 26, 2012

FATHER OF PIA AND LIAN

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FUMC TENTATIVELY SET FOR ON JAN. 4, 2013

By Your Presence

| Date | 8 am | 10 am | Sunday School | Total |
|---------|------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Nov. 4 | 6 | 60 | 11 | 77 |
| Nov. 11 | 14 | 55 | 9 | 78 |
| Nov. 18 | 10 | 87 | 9 | 106 |
| Nov. 25 | 20 | 63 | 9 | 92 |

By Your Service

ACOLYTES

Dec. 24 : Victoria Castellano & Jameela Tracey
Dec. 30: Emily Korba & Analicia Gonzalez

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

Dec. 2: Soup & Bread Luncheon
Dec. 9: Stewardship
Dec. 16: Christian Education
Dec. 23: Outreach
Dec. 30: Volunteers

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Linda Cohen, Jan deQuillfeldt, Christobelle Maynard

LECTORS

8 a.m. Kate Peterson

10 am:

Dec. 2: Dan Tierno
Dec. 9: Jan de Quillfeldt
Dec. 16: Missy Kennedy
Dec. 23: Linda Thompson
Dec. 24: Martha Peterson

OFFERING COUNTERS

Dec. 2: Jeanne Otis & Charlene Jourdan
Dec. 9: Dorothy Bausch & Joan Kaplan
Dec. 16: Gene & Barbara La Poma
Dec. 23: Arlene De Land & Charlene Jourdan
Dec. 30: Linda Thompson & Joan Stern

USHERS

Dec. 2: Nick Roloson, Gene La Poma, Natalie Korba
Dec. 9: Margo Martinez, Linda Cohen, Sherri Warta
Dec. 16: Dorothy Hyman, Michael Castellano, Judy Hartten
Dec. 23: Christobelle Maynard, Mike Korba, Rustica Mc Conneaghey
Dec. 30: Dorothy Bausch, Dwayne Warta, Gene La Poma

JUNIOR USHERS

Dec. 2: Derik Gonzalez & Shayne Warta
Dec. 9: Dylan Bedell & Jameer Waterton
Dec. 16: Robert Castellano & Ian Pagan
Dec. 23: Nyah Anglade & Anthony Erdody

GREETERS

Dec. 2: Margo Martinez
Dec. 9: Cathy & Dylan Bedell
Dec. 16: Carol Ketcham
Dec. 23: Castellano Family
Dec. 30: Mary Carbee



- 2 AMY LAROSA
WES REINHARDT
- 7 ROBERT DEQUILLFELDT
- 9 LIANNE FISHER
REBECCA SHIRES
- 13 DAVE ALLEN
- 14 RICHARD BUDDE
- 15 DORIS KLEMENS
JEANNE PRIOLA
- 18 AARON REICHBACH
- 22 CYBIL MILLER
- 24 IRENE SCUDLO
- 28 LOIS MILLER
GEORGE NESTER
- 31 CAROL KETCHAM
AVA THOMSON

ARE YOU SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS?

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Won't you also think about sharing your gifts? We are always in need of people to serve as lectors, greeters and ushers at the 10 am Service. Currently, you would serve approximately once every 6 weeks. Please consider volunteering.

Contact the church office at (631) 264-0152 or contact the chair of each group:

Ushers: Wes Powell

Acolytes: Linda Thompson

Greeters: Judy Silz

Lectors: Linda Cohen

Money Counters: Kate Peterson

Communion Stewards: Margaret Wolter



For Christmas we will have Poinsettias in the Sanctuary which you can purchase in loving memory of or in honor of a special person or persons in your life. Your gift not only remembers or honors a loved one, but it helps to beautify the church during the season and can bring cheer to the ill or house-bound church members.

COST FOR EACH PLANT: \$12 Please send this completed form to the church office with your check made payable to First UMC, clearly marked “Poinsettias” or call the Church Office by December 16th!



Alternative Gift Giving - Instead of purchasing a poinsettia, or in addition to purchasing a poinsettia you may make a contribution of \$12 (or more) and designate it for an outreach project, such as UMCOR, Heifer program, Habitat for Humanity, Imagine No Malaria or another one of your choice.

The name of the person you are honoring or remembering will be listed in the Christmas Poinsettia & Alternative Giving Booklet.

YOUR NAME _____
(as you want it to appear in our booklet)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF (1) _____
(2) _____

IN HONOR OF (1) _____
(2) _____

Give the poinsettia(s) to a shut-in
 I will take the poinsettia(s) sometime after the Christmas Eve service
 I want my contribution to go to an outreach project (specify) _____

of Plants Ordered _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____



Carmen Bassaragh & Linda Cohen, Co-Chair

As you know, Stewardship is not just about money. Yes, we do need your pledges to pay our bills, but we also need you to share your time, talents and service.

Never has this been more apparent than in the aftermath of the Hurricane/Super Storm Sandy.

First United Methodist was a valuable presence in our community showing what we as a Christian can and are willing to do to assist our neighbors and surrounding communities.

Our committees worked together to provide a safe, warm, lighted haven to eat a meal, charge your cell phone and a few hours of respite.

Several times groups of people went out into the community serving, soup, sandwiches, hot drinks and a shoulder to lean on.

One Sunday after church, a group which included several children set up on a corner in the hard hit area south of Merrick Road towards the end of Richmond Avenue. These children, accompanied by an adult, walked down the street going to the people who were outside working and told them about the FUMC table on the corner that had food and drinks for free. They also carried sandwiches and coffee to some of the residents. After delivering hot coffee to two people who thanked them so much for what they were doing, the one girl said, "It makes you feel good to help others." Another one said, "It's important to be a good steward and share what you have, serve others and make sacrifices." Evidently, the Stewardship song they learned in Sunday School had left quite an impression on them.

Many of our members took others into their homes who either still didn't have heat and lights or whose homes were destroyed by the flood waters.

It is easy to be a good steward. Just look around, see where there is a need both in and out of church and serve the Lord and your neighbors.

During the Advent season may we all remember that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season". Many have lost so much from this devastating storm. Perhaps, we can still be a guiding light and show those around us that God is Alive and will give them the strength to endure the difficult weeks ahead. Sometimes just knowing that others care can make a big difference and help those hurting to get through another day.

Let us remember to be thankful for what we have.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

JOAN KAPLAN, CHAIRPERSON

UMW met in October and has sent donations to many worthwhile charities. This was done before Sandy hit and now we will see how we can help our own who are struggling with the loss of homes and severe damage. The thrift shop is getting new storm doors and should be installed soon. We hope to have new flooring put down in the high traffic areas near the rear door while we are closed for the Christmas holiday.

On Wednesday, December 5th, we will have a Christmas luncheon for the volunteers at the Attic. It will be at the Bulldog restaurant at noon and there will be a sign up sheet at the thrift shop.

I know many church member had water damage, lost cars and have months before things will get back to some sort of normal. There are no words I can say that will make things better but we will do anything we can think of to help and if someone has a suggestion please contact me.

**2013 Officers of First United Methodist Church
Amityville, New York**

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Administrative Council Chair | Charlene Jourdan | Chair, Finance | Missy Kennedy |
| Vice-Chair | Nick Roloson | Chair, Outreach | Joan Stern |
| Lay Leader | Linda Thompson | Chair, Worship | Linda Thompson |
| Recording Secretary | Cathy Taylor | Church Attic | Judy Silz |
| Treasurer | Stephen Brice | United Methodist Women | Joan Kaplan |
| Financial Secretary | Missy Kennedy | United Methodist Women, Treasurer | Martha Peterson |
| Assistant Financial Sec. | Alan Lush | United Methodist Youth, Rep. | Danielle Bassaragh |
| Lay Members to Annual Conference | Bob Silz Linda Thompson | Co-Chairs, Stewardship | Carmen Bassaragh Linda Cohen |
| Membership Secretary | Martha Peterson | Chair, Music Committee | Pat Dougherty |
| Chair, Staff-Parish Relations | Kate Peterson | Fellowship Events | Sherri Warta |
| Chair, Committee on Nominations & Leadership Dev. | Louise Stowe-Johns, Pastor | Chair, Membership, Nurture & Evangelism | Sherri Warta |
| Chair, Counters | Kate Peterson | Memorial Treasurer | Kate Peterson |
| Chair, Christian Education | Nicole & Dan Tierno | Representative to County Line Cluster | Linda Thompson |
| Sunday School Superintendent | Christine Castellano | Flower Fund | |
| SS Assistant | Margo Martinez | Co-Chair, Church & Society | Bob Silz Valerie Miller |
| Newsletter Designer | Sherri Warta | Youth Coordinator | |
| Chair, Scholarship Committee | Judy Hartten | Ushers | Wes Powell |
| Trustee Chair | Elected by Trustees | Lay Servant Ministries | Bob Silz Linda Thompson |
| Native American Ministries Rep. | Tracie Harper Jan Thomson | Director of Music Ministry | Robyn Hyland (ex-officio) |
| Parish Health Ministry | Lurline Dixon | Historian | Eric Maxson |
| At-Large Jan Thomson & Barbara Simpson | | | |

TRUSTEES

Class of 2013

Joan Stern
George Wrage
(property mgr.)

Class of 2014

Jasmine Allen
Pat Dougherty
Linda Thompson

Class of 2015

Steve Brice
Luis Pagan
Martha Peterson

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastor Louise Stowe-Johns, Chair

Class of 2013

Carmen Bassaragh
Judy Silz
Cathy Taylor

Class of 2014

Judy Hartten
Dan Tierno

Class of 2015

Dwayne Warta
Cathy Bedell

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2013

Jasmine Allen
Cori Kaiser
Judy Silz

Class of 2014

Horace Bassaragh
Gene La Poma
Kathy Dougherty

Class of 2015

Christine Castellano
Lurline Dixon
Kate Peterson, Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (serve by virtue of office)

Missy Kennedy, Carmen Bassaragh, Steve Brice, Linda Cohen, Pat Dougherty,
Charlene Jourdan, Gene La Poma, Kate Peterson, Martha Peterson, Bob Silz,
Linda Thompson

COMMITTEES (where chairs not designated, see above)

Other members added at discretion of chair.

| | | | |
|--|---|------------------------|---|
| CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE | Jasmine Allen, Bev Bode; Wes Powell; Jan deQuillfeldt, Robyn Hyland, Linda Thompson, Judy Silz & Pastor Louise, Chair | YOUTH COUNCIL | Kim Ramirez, Danielle Bassaragh, Michael Castellano, Marissa Ramirez, & Natalie Korba |
| COLUMBARIUM TASK FORCE | Wes Powell, Chair; Judy Silz, Cathy Taylor, Linda Thompson | RECONCILING TASK FORCE | Linda Thompson, Nick Roloson |
| OUTREACH | Jasmine Allen, Joan Kaplan, Dwayne Warta, Janet King, Eric Maxson | ONLINE | Nicole Battista, Christine Castellano |
| CHURCH AND SOCIETY | Bob Silz, Nicole Battista, Missy Kennedy, Mike Korba, Liz LaRosa, Eric Maxson, Nick Roloson | LABYRINTH TASK FORCE | Cathy Taylor, Dan Tierno, Marissa Ramirez, Pastor Louise |
| MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE | Sherri Warta, Chair; Carol Ketcham, Barbara La Poma, Martha Peterson Joan Stern, Linda Thompson, Jan Thomson | WORSHIP COMMITTEE | Linda Thompson, Charlene Jourdan, Missy Kennedy, Barbara La Poma, Martha Peterson, Judy Silz, Jan Thomson |
| STEWARDSHIP | Carmen Bassaragh, Linda Cohen, Judy Hartten, Linda Thompson, Margaret Wolter | | |

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

ROBERT SILZ, CHAIRPERSON

In Mark 10:44-45 Jesus says that “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave to all.” Jesus brings into sharp focus that our greatest success comes from helping others.

To date, donations of about 420 pounds of produce from our Garden of Hope and contributions from some of those who have maintained gardens at their homes has been shared between the Freeport Pantry and the soup kitchen at the Farmingdale United Methodist Church.

A more recent example of our outreach to feed the hungry on Long Island comes from the efforts of the UMW to collect many pounds of bagels donated by Poppy's Bagels in Amityville. These have been added to the garden produce taken to the Freeport Pantry each week. It is also noteworthy that the consistent efforts of the UMW at the Church Attic provide sizeable monetary donations to the Long Island Council of Churches.

A letter received from Pastor Tom Goodhue, Executive Director of the Long Island Council of Churches reveals the importance of servant initiatives.

Thanks to your gifts and contributions from other generous donors, last year we fed 21,215 hungry Long Islanders 190,935 meals, provided rent and mortgage assistance to 43 households, electricity, fuel gas and water assistance to 68 households, prescriptions assistance for 35 individuals and transportation assistance for 545. We also distributed clothes, coats, jackets, sweaters, and bedding to another 4,730 hosted a full-course thanksgiving Dinner for 475 East End residents and their families, distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas basket to 1,1003 families and gave Christmas gifts and toys to 738 children.

Here is an example of how your donations help our guests:

Sally is a single Mom with eight kids ages 2-12. She's frail and unable to work. Although she receives food stamps, they are not nearly sufficient to feed her large family. By the time she pays her rent, utilities and other basics, she has no money left to feed her family. She comes to us every week for food assistance, including baby formula for her youngest child. Without our help, she and her family would not survive.

You and our other donors make it possible for us to give all our guests hope, assistance, and to know that they are not being forgotten.”

We will continue to collect food to support the LICC pantry. Any of the following items can be placed in the basket inside the front entrance to the church or to the church office:

- Canned vegetables/soups (low salt/low fat)
- Canned/Dried fruit; fresh fruit/vegetable (1 bag or bunch)
- 100% fruit juice (not fruit drink), dry milk/parmalat
- Pasta, rice canned beans; tomato/spaghetti sauce
- Complete pancake Mix/syrup, hot/cold breakfast cereals
- Canned tuna/chicken/salmon (in water), canned stew
- Nuts (low salt), peanut butter (low salt) jelly
- Infant formula powder Enfamil w/Lipil or Simalac Advance
- Shampoo, soap, toothpaste/brushes, toiletries
- Diapers (size 3-5), paper towel, toilet paper
- Clothing – winter
- School Supplies (notebooks, pens/pencils, crayons, rulers, calculators, etc.)

*2012 All Saint's Sunday**Richard George Erdody**Oct. 2, 1923 – May 19, 2011**Dorothy Lorraine Gutschuager**Aug. 29, 1917 – Nov. 29, 2011**Charles E. Soumaian**Oct. 25, 1926 – Nov. 27, 2011**Harold Robert Bausch**Mar. 24, 1917-Dec. 18, 2011**Ray Dean Hollis**July 14, 1930 – Jan. 9, 2012**Margaret Ann Daly**Sept. 2, 1934 – Jan. 31, 2012**Marie Smith**Oct. 13, 1934 – Jan. 28, 2012**Charles Bergen**June 4, 1912 – Mar. 18, 2012**Ronald Carlsen**Aug. 21, 1952 – Apr. 1, 2012**Elizabeth A. Fuller**Sept. 3, 1953 - Apr. 4, 2012**Edna Kracke**Jan. 27, 1916 – Apr. 16, 2012**Florence Walters**Sept. 23, 1915 – Apr. 26, 2012**Jeanne Maldzykowski Olsen**May 27, 1921 – May 5, 2012**Eleanor R. Johnson**Mar. 31, 1915 – June 20, 2012**Judith Ann Johnson**Oct. 29, 1946 – June 27, 2012**William Barry Grennan**Aug. 13, 1991 - July 10, 2012**Anne A. Sulzbach**Aug. 11, 1919 – Aug. 6, 2012**Laura Sgambati**Aug. 10, 1962 – Sept. 8, 2012**Leona Tabell**August 23, 2012**From the*
TREASURER

STEVE BRICE

Our financial position hasn't changed much in the last few months, which is good. The easiest way to arrive at this conclusion is to compare the bank balance with our liabilities. Although at present, we owe more than our bank balance actually is, it's reasonable to expect that the end of year and Christmas giving will increase the bank balance so that we break even at minimum. However, as has been stated in the past, we have no money for unexpected expenses (e.g., a lot of the aluminum has come off the steeple and it will be a very large expense to take care of that repair).

UMFY NEWS

On Saturday, Nov. 3, "Youth Alive 2012" was held at Farmingdale UMC from 6 - 9 p.m. Youth brought non-perishable food items that were donated to the Long Island Council of Churches.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, youth baked cookies for upcoming cookie walk (12-2 p.m.)

FRIDAY, Nov. 30 8 - 10 p.m. at FUMC
Joint meeting with Massapequa UMYF .
Bring friends, snacks and board games.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Cookie Walk Fundraiser

Meet in Parlor between 9:30/9:45 a.m. to set up

Slavery is No More—Maybe!

On Saturday, October 20, 2012, four youth and three adults went into Manhattan to learn about human trafficking, “God is Calling. Will You Answer?” The event was put on by United Methodist Women. The group included Victoria Castellano, Analicia Gonzalez, Alyssia Leonardi, Holly Preisel, Margo Martinez, Robyn Hyland, and Pastor Louise. The morning session was about how God calls us in varied ways, even though people may discriminate against us. In the afternoon we heard about labor trafficking.

On the train ride back to Amityville, the youth and adults talked about the day:

Holly: From the stories people told, I learned a lot. It opened my eyes to see how I can help other people that I didn’t know about before. I liked the cheerful songs and how welcoming they were at the church.

Victoria: It was fun. I met new friends and learned about human trafficking.

Alyssia: I learned about how Damayan [an advocacy organization for migrant workers] is helping people in the world.

Analicia: Some people don’t know about trafficking. Once they learn, maybe they will do something about this unfortunate situation.

Margo: It is a shame that members of the diplomatic corps here and in other countries can get away with human trafficking.

Robyn: It is important to remember that there is a privilege of latitude and longitude: where we are born makes a big difference. All people should be able to realize their potential. Youth can be advocates for social justice; one person can change things.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 began the process of freeing slaves in the United States, it was not until the adoption of the 13th Amendment in 1865 that slavery was outlawed. That is almost 150 years ago. But there is still “involuntary servitude” in our country and many other countries. It is hard to conceive that people become like slaves in restaurant work, factories, agricultural work, and domestic labor. Yet it is a reality.

What would you do if you had been hired to work as a nanny in another country and when you got to your job, your passport was taken, you had to work 16-18 hour days, got no time off, and received lower wages than promised? Most people respond, “I would leave”, but getting away is often difficult if not dangerous. If that seems like something that only happens in other countries, think about the case from 2007 in which a Muttontown, Long Island couple was sent to prison for “enslaving two Indonesian housekeepers”.

At the one day event, held at Grace UMC, 104th Street, we learned that human trafficking happens even on Long Island. We also heard that we can help change things!

Are we willing to do something? Check out the website www.dosomething.org. God is calling. Will you answer?

MEMBERSHIP & Nurture EVANGELISM

MARTHA PETERSON
CHAIR

The committee has had a very busy month. After "Sandy" we reached out to the community by serving a hot meal, consisting of soup, bagels (thanks to Pppy's), salad, desserts, coffee and tea. Opening up the Church Parlor for people to get warm, charge their cell phones and come together in a time of need.

On Thanksgiving Day, a complete dinner was prepared and served to 35 people. Again a time to give back and come together as a community to give Thanks for our Blessings even in a time of despair.

A big "THANK YOU" to those people who shopped, prepared, servered and cleaned-up. God Bless all of you for giving of your time to reach out to others.

Offering of Gratitude

On All Saint's Sunday, we had an Offering of Gratitude. *We were asked to "write down what you were taught by someone who has entered life eternal, or a gratitude you have on this day.* Here are some of the responses:

I am grateful for my family. My grandmother has taught me so many things, but one was that you cannot control everything.

Do not sweat the small stuff. Being without power is tough but I have my house. My mother always told me not to make a mountain out of a mole hill!

I learned to place family first from my mother. I am grateful for my family's safety during the storm and for a place to stay while we are not able to live at home.

I am grateful for all the help from family, friends and strangers during this terrible ordeal. I truly feel God's presence and love.

Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me.

Thankful for friends and family for their support and help during the last year. Live each day with the thought of God, family and friends and a smile on your face. Give thanks for health each day.

Thank all the family and friends of mine who have fed me and put a roof over my head. I also thank them for the physical effort they have expanded trying to normalize my life at this time of tragedy.

Roy Van Nostrand taught me: Love, Generosity, Leadership and Modest Living.

Roy taught me about the seas, community, people. I will miss his wisdom and strength. Much gratitude for friends and strangers who have helped me this week.

My mother taught us to be strong. We lost everything in the storm but I know she was right with us saying things will be okay. Thankful for the families we have that came to help when we were down and out.

Be respectful, be nice, keep God in your life.

Thank you for all you do for us! You are truly the light. I love you.

The gift of a new life.

The expression of love is abundantly shown by so many.

Bill Perkins taught us that God accepts us as who we are. He also stressed forgiveness. How it works for the forgiver and the one to be forgiven.

Thank God I was able to help the few people I encountered during this natural disaster. I am grateful for the love I learned from my dear Sister.

For my father, who taught me that one can be happy in hard times. For my grandmother, who taught me that Sophia, God's wisdom is proven true by both John and Jesus.

None of my friends lost their lives or were hurt. The rest is just "stuff" which can be replaced.

Aunt Doretha, Aunt Betty, Theodore Vaugh Holtzclaus. Take time to love yourself and have fun sometimes, it will do your heart good. Give, you'll get it back 10 times over. It's just stuff. Life is short, eat dessert first.

Gratitude—I/we have life. We are just glad to be alive amidst the storm. We can also thank God for having a roof over our head after the storm.

To always love my family and stay close to them. That I am healthy and have a wonderful husband, two great boys and a faithful little dog name Daisy.

I am grateful in the way you have helped me be compassionate and empathetic to others who have experienced great loss.

You can never be prepared for life's experiences.



First United Methodist Church
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 The Rev. Dr. Louise-Stowe-Johns, Pastor
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

Church Office Hours :
Tues.-Fri. 9 am—1 pm

IH Ireland Hall BH Binkley Hall
AR Amanda's Room P Parlor
C—Chapel YR—Youth Room

December 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Every Sunday 8 & 10 am: Worship 9 am Adult Choir 10 am Sunday School 11:15 am Youth Choir 11:30 am MS/HS HB</p> | | | | <p>Support Group Meetings—basement AA Wednesday & Saturdays @ 8 pm</p> | | <p>1 9 am 1st Ens. HB Rehearsal</p> |
| <p>2 1st Sunday in Advent Communion Hanging of the Greens Cookie Walk 6-9 pm 2nd Stage</p> | <p>3 Office Closed 7 pm Worship Committee 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)</p> | <p>4 7-9:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>5 4:15 pm (IH) Amy's Art Classes 7—8:15 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens. HB</p> | <p>6 5 pm Finance 7-9:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>7 8 pm PeaceSmiths (IH)</p> | <p>8 9 am 1st Ens. HB Rehearsal</p> |
| <p>9 2nd Sunday in Advent 3 pm Advent Ecumenical Lessons & Carols 6-9 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>10 Office Closed 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)</p> | <p>11 7-9:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>12 4:15 pm (IH) Amy's Art Classes 7—8:15 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm 1st Ens. HB</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15 9 am 1st Ens. HB Rehearsal</p> |
| <p>16 3rd Sunday in Advent 6-9 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>17 Office Closed 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)</p> | <p>18 7-9:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>19 4:15 pm (IH) Amy's Art Classes 7—8:15 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm 1st Ens. HB</p> | <p>20 7-9:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22 8:30 am Pageant Rehearsal 10 am 1st Ens. HB Rehearsal</p> |
| <p>23 4th Sunday in Advent 10 am Christmas Pageant 6-9 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>24 Office Closed 4:45 pm Special Christmas Music 5 pm Candlelight Service with Communion</p> | <p>25 Christmas Day</p> | <p>26 Office Closed</p> | <p>27 7-9:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29 9 am 1st Ens. HB Rehearsal</p> |
| <p>30 1st Sunday After Christmas Lessons & Carols Student Sunday 6-9 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p> | <p>31 Office Closed</p> |  <p style="text-align: right; color: blue;"><i>Happy Birthday, Jesus!</i></p> | | | | |

**First United Methodist Church
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Sunday School - 10 am

Return Service Requested

December 2012

Dated Church Material

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Missy Kennedy shows bells to residents of Broadlawn Nursing Home where a combined Bell Choir gave a performance in November.