

The Lamplighter

FEBRUARY 2013

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AMITYVILLE, NY

Spaghetti Dinner and TALENT SHOW



The spaghetti dinner and talent show has been done for 5 years by the youth to raise money for attending Camp Quinipet, a district retreat.



PASTOR LOUISE

GOD NUDGES

On Sunday, January 27, I spoke about my evolution in critiquing the criminal justice system. It took a sharp focus when I accepted a job that had never been on my radar. In 1984, in the same breath friends were telling me that a prison chaplain in Alabama was resigning, and I ought to apply. I have no idea why anyone would have thought of me. However, there were notable ways in which that information and suggestion were synchronous with my life. My job as a Christian educator at an Episcopal Church in Montgomery was drawing to a close. I had been ordained deacon the previous year, so I had the credentials to become a chaplain. However, I was an unlikely candidate. I had been in a prison exactly two times. I had never been in a jail—which is different from a prison. I was both intrigued and repelled by the idea of being a prison chaplain. Banking on the intrigue aspect, I applied. The warden was a stern woman and far from encouraging.

Despite all odds and personal sanity, I got the job: chaplain for three institutions: a work camp for men, a facility for young first-time male offenders, and the maximum-security prison for women: Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women, named after a 19th century prison reformer in Alabama.

My first day was spent shadowing the resigning chaplain. We drove to all three institutions, but spent most of the day at Tutwiler Prison. I was shown the “new” chapel: shared space with what was almost laughingly called a recreation room. That meant women could go in there and do a few craft projects, if they had their own supplies. Already a small space, it was also a place to toss things that had no other home. Midday of my shadowing I was seriously ready to run! There were huge issues and the environment was a big deterrent to “rehabilitation”. But I showed up the next day and settled into an office with no phone, located off the noisy, smoke-drenched cafeteria, and no air conditioning in oppressive Alabama heat. A dream job!

People in prison, for us up-standing Christians, are outsiders. They surely are defective in some way or they wouldn't be in that fix. After a few years as chaplain it was clear to me that we weren't very effective in preparing inmates to re-enter the community. I could go on and on about the stupid things we do regarding prisons and inmates. One example is the fact that we have the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world. The average cost per inmate is \$30,000 a year.

ARE WE GETTING WHAT WE ARE PAYING FOR?

While I was working in the prisons two ideas began germinating; this ultimately led to my resigning after being chaplain for six years, because I could not implement my ideas and still work at the prison. The first awakening was the concept of accountability for an offender that could come from meeting with the victim of the crime along with a representative of the community. It is a form of restorative justice. And it works! The second was beginning a program for juvenile offenders in state facilities: a weekend retreat and continued follow-up by the team members on the retreat. I started the first program in Alabama for Victim-Offender Reconciliation and worked with others to design and implement Epiphany, the spiritual retreat for juveniles in custody. Twenty-two years after its beginning, Epiphany is in ten states.

Not everyone is cut-out for prison ministry. But we are all cut-out for restorative justice. That is the belief that we have problems to solve that involve humans in a non-legalistic framework. It says the community has a stake in making our world a safer and saner place. No one is an outsider. Until those we consider outsiders become part of a restorative process we may be do-gooders, but we will not have changed what is corrosive community.

Sometimes there are things we really don't want to do. They can be one-time events or longer commitments. We may do them anyway and find out there is a “reward” we hadn't expected. It was only in retrospect that I could see what a gift it had been to be immersed in the prison culture. It was a difficult and at times discouraging job, but out of it came insight that I carry with me to this day. The next time God seems to be nudging you, pay attention. If you say yes, amazing things can happen!





Worship Committee

BY LINDA THOMPSON, CHAIR

VISION STATEMENT:

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the people of First United Methodist Church of Amityville, NY will

- Witness to Jesus Christ in the world.
- Follow Jesus' teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion.

Yes, look at your calendars it is hard to believe but, the beginning of Lent is right around the corner: February 13th to be exact, Ash Wednesday. As we move to this dark season in the church calendar let us pray for God's guidance on our continued journey of Faith.

If you would like to become part of this team please do not hesitate to join us, we usually meet the first Monday of each month at 7 pm in Amanda's room. Next meeting is February 11th. New ideas are always welcome.

Christmas pageant was well done with participation from the young people in our congregation; it is always a pleasure to have them part of the Sunday morning worship experience. Thanks to Pastor Louise and Robyn for their work on this annual event.

Christmas Eve received good reviews: the luminarias welcoming worshippers, the handbell music, the service itself including the liturgical dance presented by Danielle and her mother Carmen. What a wonderful way to welcome Jesus into the world and our lives once again.

Christmas Lessons and Carols and United Methodist Student Sunday on December 30th was a good service; it was also our chance to wish our college students farewell and good luck in this next semester.

The handbell concert was a rousing success. Largest attendance, 225, since providing these benefit concerts in the church. Thanks go out to *Newsday* for their article highlighting the concert as one of the holiday events being held in Long Island. The offering reached \$1510.00 which will be divided between Sandy disaster relief and the handbell choir. A couple of issues that need to be addressed are: seating and parking. It is always nice to have those kinds of problems but we do not want to discourage people from attending.

Pastor Louise is being kidnapped by her husband for a cruise in the beginning of February (3-10). Therefore Charlene Jourdan, a lay preacher from our congregation, will be preaching on February 3 and two certified Lay Speakers from our district will come on February 10. Ken Ahler is a member of the Bellmore UMC and has taught Lay Speaker classes. He will be talking about "Walk to Emmaus", a spiritual weekend retreat. Dennis Subbiondo is a Farmingdale resident and former groundskeeper at Camp Quinipet. He will speak on Chrysalis, the youth equivalent to "Walk to Emmaus". You won't want to miss either Sunday!

Plans are underway for our Ash Wednesday services; one at 12:15 pm here in the sanctuary with Communion and our cluster service at 7:30 pm at Community United Methodist Church Massapequa. As usual this service will be officiated by clergy from our cluster churches along with some of the lay representatives. The offering will be sent to the New York Annual Conference for the ongoing needs from Hurricane Sandy.

Following Ash Wednesday we will again have a Lenten series and Taizé service on Sunday evenings at 5 pm. The dates are as follows: 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, and 3/17; dates and times could be changed if there is a conflict. The topic of discussion will be First Church becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Come and join us!

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

*ONCE AGAIN, OUR NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED
FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013 @ 7 PM
IN AMANDA'S ROOM*

HANDBELL FESTIVAL CONCERT

SATURDAY,
MARCH 2 @ 7:30 PM

GOSPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH
138 GREELEY AVENUE, SAYVILLE, NY

The First United Methodist Church Ensemble Bell Choir will again be participating in the Festival Concert.

Reception following



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 13

12:15 PM @ FUMC

7:30 PM CLUSTER SERVICE

COMMUNITY UMC
MASSAPEQUA, NY

STEWARDSHIP

Carmen Bassaragh & Linda Cohen, Co-Chair

Ash Wednesday is February 13. Our Lenten self-denial cups will be available on the Narthex table beginning Feb. 10. Half of the contributions will be used for the continued refurbishing of our library and Narthex to make our church a warm, friendly gathering place.

The 2nd half of the donations will be given to New York Annual Conference Disaster Relief for those affected by Hurricane/Super Storm Sandy. There are still many of our members who are displaced and work continues on their homes.

As we have seen with the devastating effects from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, it takes several years to recuperate from a major storm.

Please make a dedicated effort to fill your Lenten self-denial cups. Checks may be made out to "FUMC" and on the memo line put "Lenten-Self-Denial".



Birthdays!

- 3 KERI WATSON
- 9 NATALIE KORBA
- 11 BARBARA LA POMA
- 16 MARGARET WOLTER
- 25 RHODA McVICKER
- 26 NNAMDI UKASOANYA

G-O-D 1-2-3

*ANNUAL UMC LONG ISLAND
EAST DISTRICT YOUTH
RETREAT AT CAMP QUINIPET
APR 19—21, 2013*

ARRIVE FRIDAY AT 7:00 PM
LEAVE SUNDAY AT 1:00 PM

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH
6TH GRADE AND UP

1 ADULT PER 6 YOUTH

HOUSING, MEALS, SNACKS, AND
ACTIVITIES ARE ALL INCLUDE.

COST: \$85.00 PER PERSON
IF REGISTERED BY FEB 28

\$100.00 PER PERSON IF
REGISTERED BY MAR 31

Money raised at the 5th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show and Cookie Walk, will be used towards the cost of each participant.

Would you like to be a part of the "Quinipet Worship Band"? Looking for instrumental and vocal. Please let Robyn Hyland know.

**Everyone is invited to be a part of the **
Saturday Night Talent Show

ANY QUESTIONS SEE
ROBYN HYLAND.

THAT COMMUNION ENVELOPE

PASTOR LOUISE

If you have offering envelopes, you see on the first Sunday of each month an additional envelope: "Communion Offering". All the money given through that goes to the "Good Samaritan Fund". The money is used for persons who are in a financial crisis. I administer the fund in order that it may be done confidentially and efficiently. There is a yearly audit. Occasionally it is used for someone in the congregation; more often it is someone unconnected to the church.

The usual procedure, after a conversation with the person, is to write a check to a business like a car repair shop. That way I know the money will be used as requested. The Good Samaritan Fund is especially helpful to people who would not be able to get emergency help through agencies. We cooperate with St. Martin's Outreach and send people there when appropriate, but sometimes they are not allowed to help on a short-term issue.

Most of the offerings are relatively small, but put together over the months with other gifts, it can make a big difference in the quality of people's lives.

Thank you to all who have contributed. You can know that every penny has done a lot of good.

Below is a letter from The Long Island Council of Churches. Because we had sufficient funds to make a larger contribution, \$500 was given in December from the Good Samaritan money. This is the letter of thanks from the Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue, Executive Director.

"On behalf of the Long Island Council of Churches Board of Governors, staff, and the guests we serve, thank you for-your-gift of \$500.00 that will be used to support our ministry serving Long Islanders in need.

"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, prescription 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 fami-

lies, distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to 1,003 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 two to 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.

Our staff also spends considerable time assessing the needs of guests we cannot assist, and referring them to other agencies for additional help. These efforts are as critical to our guests' survival as the direct services we provide."

That communion envelope contains a message of love and hope.

LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Emergency Food Pantry in Freeport

Keep bringing food items to help the Food Pantry in Freeport. Keep this list with you when you go shopping and pick up a few each time.

These can be placed in the basket inside the front entrance to the church:

- 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)/Jello
- Infant Formula powder Enfamil w/Lipil or Simalac Advance
- Shampoo, Soap, toothpaste/brushes Toiletries
- Diapers (size 3-5), Paper Towel, Toilet Paper
- Winter Clothing
- School Supplies (notebooks, pens/pencils, crayons, rulers, calculators ...



Church Membership

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

By Your Prayers

JORDAN REYES
 YVETTE MILLER
 DONALD AUPRIN
 WES REINHARDT

By Your Service



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Sunday, February 3, 2013

On Souper Bowl Sunday, all across America youth are collecting donations to aid in helping the hungry and poverty stricken. All monies collected stay in the local area.

WHAT THIS HAS CHURCH HAS GIVEN.

- 2007: \$332.50
- 2008: \$421.38
- 2009: \$506.38
- 2010: \$345.00
- 2011: \$430.00
- 2012: \$281.00
- 2013: ????????

Canned goods can be donated during the month of February to help restock the local food pantry and the Long Island Council of Churches food pantry. Baskets are provided in the Narthex entrance way.

By Your Presence

Date	8 am	10 am	Sunday School	Total
Jan. 6	13	66	11	90
Jan. 6		Concert		225
Jan. 13	11	51	11	73
Jan. 20	10	60	14	84
Jan. 27	15	58	11	84

ACOLYTES	Juliana Warta & Emily Korba
REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE	Feb. 3: UMW Feb. 10: Finance Committee Feb. 17: Church and Socceity Feb. 24: Outreach
COMMUNION STEWARDS	Charlene Jourdan, Martha Peterson, Valerie Miller
LECTORS	8 a.m. Kate Peterson 10 am: Feb. 3: Dan Tierno Feb. 10: Martha Peterson Feb. 17: Alan Rossman Feb. 24: Charlene Jourdan
USHERS	Feb. 3: Judy and Bob Silz, Rustica McConneaughey Feb. 10: Dorothy Bausch, Gene La Poma, Michael Castellano Feb. 17: Dana & Danielle Bassaragh, Jan de Quillfeldt Feb. 24: Judy Hartten, Natalie & Mike Korba
JUNIOR USHERS	Feb. 3: Derek Gonzales & Shayne Warta Feb. 10: Dylan Bedell & Jameer Waterton Feb. 17: Robert Castellano & Ian Pagan Feb. 24: Nyah Anglade & Anthony Erdody
GREETERS	Feb. 3: Korba Family Feb. 10: Valerie Miller Feb. 17: Katie Lee & Pat Dougherty Feb. 24: Nicole Battista & Eric Maxson

GENEROSITY AFTER PASSING OF THE STORM

Not long after Hurricane Sandy, the Long Island East District put out an appeal! Give money! At a time when many were struggling even to find a habitable place to live with plenty of financial concerns, it seemed like asking too much, especially from south shore congregations. But when you heard it was for purchasing a disaster relief trailer and stocking it for ongoing needs from the Hurricane and future storms, this congregation responded generously. The total given from all churches is \$8,143.85. The trailer cost \$4,121, shelving and tools about \$4,000. Any additional funds that are needed will come from the district.

“PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE”

Lectors have a big responsibility leading the congregation in worship. One is to make the service accessible to all. By saying “please stand as you are able”, those unable to stand or limited in standing get a clear message that seated or standing, they are still full participants. That is one of the many, seemingly small ways lectors make a big difference.

Periodically lectors need reminders and new lectors need training for their volunteering in worship. Pastor Louise will lead a training (about 30 minutes) on Sunday, February 17, 11:15 am. Seasoned lectors are asked to attend. New and potential lectors are expected to attend.

**LECTOR TRAINING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17
11:15 – 11:45 AM (SANCTUARY)
FOR NEW, EXPERIENCED, AND INTERESTED
LECTORS**



EASTER FLOWERS & ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Easter is March 31

ORDER DEADLINE March 17

Easter flowers to be placed on the altar Easter Sunday in memory of or in honor of a person or to make a donation to an Outreach program: i.e. UMCOR (international humanitarian aid organization of the UMC), “Imagine No Malaria”, “Habitat for Humanity”, “Heifer International”, Disaster Relief for Sandy, etc. Please complete this form and return it to the Church Office by March 17. We ask that you write separate checks for flowers and “other giving”. Write your check(s) payable to F.U.M.C, and on the memo line write **“Easter Flowers” or the outreach program you are donating to.** This will enable our treasurer to credit properly your giving statement. All requests are \$12.00 each.

Please PRINT all information exactly as you wish it to appear in our Easter Sunday Booklet

YOUR NAME (As Donor) _____ Phone # _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF: (1) _____

(2) _____

(select plant): _____ Lily _____ Hydrangea _____ Azalea _____ Daisy Mums

IN HONOR OF: (1) _____

(2) _____

select plant): _____ Lily _____ Hydrangea _____ Azalea _____ Daisy Mums

(You may attach a separate piece of paper for additional plants)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED: _____ x \$12 = _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Indicate your choice for Distribution: _____ Donate To a Shut-In _____ To Be Taken (After Late Service)

Instead of flowers or in addition to flowers, I want my contribution to go to an outreach project (specify)

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Making a Difference through Sustainable Agriculture

Bob Silz, Co-Chair, Church & Society

The need for a balanced diet is universal. Because food affects every life form on our planet we are interdependent with other countries in how we tend the earth. The "Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, 2009-2012" state:

"A prerequisite for meeting the nutritional needs of the world's population is an agricultural system that uses sustainable methods, respects ecosystems, and promotes a livelihood for people that work the land.

"We support a sustainable agricultural system that will maintain and support the natural fertility of agricultural soil, promote the diversity of flora and fauna, and adapt to regional conditions and structures—a system where agricultural animals are treated humanely and where their living conditions are as close to natural systems as possible. We aspire to an effective agricultural system where plant, livestock, and poultry production maintains the natural ecological cycles, conserves energy, and reduces chemical input to a minimum.

"Sustainable agriculture requires a global evaluation of the impact of agriculture on food and raw material production, the preservation of animal breeds and plant varieties, and the preservation and development of the cultivated landscape.

"World trade of agricultural products needs to be based on fair trade and prices, based on the costs of sustainable production methods, and must consider the real costs of ecological damage. The needed technological and biological developments are those that support sustainability and consider ecological consequences."

One way to put our faith into action is to purchase Fair Trade items. Although there is no simple definition of Fair Trade, the concept is to guarantee a living wage to the producer, to use sustainable methods of agriculture, and to eliminate child laborers. Some of these are best achieved by not having a third party, a company or individual between the producer and the consumer.

These are direct benefits of purchasing Fair Trade goods:

- Fair Trade empowers families to send their children to school;

- Fair Trade builds clean water wells that save dozens of children from dying in infancy;
- Fair Trade uses recycled or sustainably harvested materials;
- Fair Trade helps build health clinics in under-served areas;

Purchasing Fair Trade is a choice we can make that ensures quality products, improves lives, and protects the environment.

Take the Pledge to Buy Fair Trade!

'I pledge to buy fair trade products to help eradicate poverty and provide economic justice to our world!'

Watch for labels that state that the item is "Fair Trade Certified".

From the **TREASURER**

STEVE BRICE

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

When I became treasurer, let alone being a trustee, I quickly realized that the Church's finances were bordering being in the red from week to week. Many cost saving measures have been implemented since, and overall, we are managing income versus normal expenses on a month-to-month basis.

HOWEVER, in order to save \$525 for plowing per snow fall (this is for 3-6", more dollars if more snow falls) by a professional landscaper -- which therefore could add thousands of dollars each year to Church expenses, I decided to plow the various driveways. When we had a custodian who was present daily, the walkways were shoveled by him. This is no longer the case.

Now, AS A CONGREGATION, we all need to help. An e-mail was sent out at the beginning of last week asking for help with the thought that we'd get a major snowfall. We only received an inch on a non workday for most, but one inch or six, the same dangerous prospect is there -- someone could slip, be injured and sue the Church. Guess what -- NO ONE called me or stopped by; so I sprained my back shoveling 500+ feet of walkway. PLEASE remember that we need help anytime it snows. Call me before it snows (631-495-9632) and let me know of your availability -- the more hands the better.



First United Methodist Church
 amitychurch1792@gmail.com AmityUnitedMethodistChurch.org
 25 Broadway, Amityville, NY 11701 631 264-0152
 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

February 2013

HB Ens.: First Church Handbell Ensemble
Adult HB: Adult Handbell Group
MS/HS HB: Middle/High School Handbell

Note: Please check your Sunday insert for Handbell Rehearsals.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Every Sunday</i> 8 & 10 am: Worship 9 am Adult Choir 10 am Sunday School 11:15 am Youth Choir</p>					<p>1 3:15 pm (IH) Amy's Art Classes 8 pm PeaceSmiths</p>	<p>2 8:30 am 1st Ens. HB Reh. 8:30 am—12:30 pm Leader to Leader Workshops @</p>
<p>3 4th Sunday After the Epiphany 2:15-4:45 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>4 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)</p>	<p>5 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>6 NO CONFIRMATION CLASS 7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens. HB</p>	<p>7 5 pm Finance 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>8 3:15 pm (IH) Amy's Art Classes</p>	<p>9 9 am 1st Ens. HB Reh.</p>
<p>10 Transfiguration Sunday Boy Scout Sunday 2:15-4:45 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>11 7 pm Worship Comm. 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)</p>	<p>12 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>13 Ash Wednesday 12:15 pm Service at FUMC 7:30 pm Service at Community UMC,</p>	<p>14 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>15 3:15 pm (IH) Amy's Art Classes</p>	<p>16 9 am 1st Ens. HB Reh.</p>
<p>17 1st Sunday in Lent 11:15 am Lector Training 2:15-4:45 pm 2nd Stage (IH) 5 pm Lenten Series & Taizé Prayers</p>	<p>18 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)</p>	<p>19 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>20 7—8:15 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens. HB</p>	<p>21 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>22 3:15 pm (IH) Amy's Art Classes</p>	<p>23 9 am 1st Ens. HB Reh.</p>
<p>24 2nd Sunday in Lent 2:15-4:45 pm 2nd Stage (IH) 5 pm Lenten Series & Taizé Prayers</p>	<p>25 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)</p>	<p>26 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>23 7—8:15 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens. HB</p>	<p>28 6-8:30 pm 2nd Stage (IH)</p>	<p>Support Group Meetings—basement AA Wednesday & Saturdays @ 8 pm NA Fridays @ 7:30 pm</p>	

Amityville, NY 11701

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Director of Music Ministry: Robyn Hyland, AGO
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Sunday Services: 8 & 10 am
Sunday School - 10 am

Return Service Requested

**February
2013**

Dated Church Material

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Photos in this issue by Robyn Hyland