The Lamplighter

JANUARY 2012

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AMITYVILLE, NY

FUMC Sunday School Presents

The Story of Christmas







Candlelight, singing, and instruments by the youth of FUMC







The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." -BUECHNER

PASTOR LOUISE

My daughter, Michele, is an intern at Whitman-Walker Health in Washington, D. C. This is fulfilling her last requirement for a Master's in Social Work. She will be graduated in May 2012. Her work entails individual counseling and co-facilitating several groups I had a conversation with Michele recently about her work, because what she does is important and because she is a representative of our denomination. She is in process for full ordination and is halfway in that process having been commissioned as a deacon. Once the ordination is completed, she will find her own employment, but be appointed by the bishop.

There is more information about Whitman-Walker at the end of this article.

This is some of the interview conducted on Monday, January 2, 2012.

LSJ (Pastor Louise): "Who are clients of Whitman-Walker?"

MJ (Michele Johns): "We are a community health center, providing care to persons who otherwise experience barriers to care, particularly to persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgenderand/or queer, and persons who are HIV-positive or have AIDS. Clients come from all parts of our society from lower economic to higher economic, female, male, and across the gender spectrum, various ethnicities, well-educated and limited education. Some come from as far as two hours away; we have clients from D. C., Virginia, and Maryland.

LSJ: "Why is there a need for the services?"

MJ: "Some people travel a long distance, because they can't get the 'wrap-around service' in their city or town. That is particularly true of persons in rural areas. They are looking for culturally competent care that is holistic and not judgmental. Because we offer care that is medical, behavioral, and legal as well as support systems, such as peer counseling, there is a more human face to the help people get. It is also possible for us to tailor care to a variety of cultures. There are unique needs for minorities, such as African-Americans and Latinos and Latinas that are often overlooked in smaller communities. That is because they may not have the resources to address those needs."

LSJ: "Are all the services based where you work?"

MJ: "Whitman-Walker is aware that not everyone will or can get to this physical location. We use a mobile van to go to places like a grocery store parking lot or a nightclub to do free education and testing for HIV. We also go into neighborhoods and offer education and testing where people live. In a near-by United Methodist Church, we hold peercounseling groups. We are determined to prevent and reduce barriers to receiving care. Education is a critical need to many populations. Education is prevention."

LSJ: "What groups do you co-facilitate?"
MJ: "One is Spirituality for persons who are HIV-

positive or are living with AIDS. We had a lively discussion in one session about acceptance. The topic ranged from acceptance of self to acceptance by others to acceptance by God. Acknowledging the diagnosis of HIV can be a struggle. Feeling loved and acceptedby God is another big struggle. People can be kicked out of faith communities and their families, when they find out someone is HIV-positive. Another group I co-facilitate is called Trans Spectrum. These are young adults early in transitioning from female to male or vice-versa. Some are questioning their gender identity. There are states that still allow discrimination of persons who are transgender. Our legal department has been working on a case of an undocumented person who is seeking political asylum, because in the home country the person faces violence because of being transgender."

LSJ: "What is rewarding about your work?"

MJ: "Changes that you can see in people; the way a person's eyes light up when appropriately addressed, in a respectful, compassionate way."

LSJ: "What frustrates you?"

MJ: "The lack of housing for people who are HIV+ or transgender. Sometimes there is housing, but the environment is hostile. Housing and esources for people who are addicted to drugs is more available, yet still insufficient compared to the need. With indequate housing, a person's medical situation often deteriorates, because of poor nutrition and unpredictable schedules Medication is to be taken in a strict regimen, but if there is a daily goal of figuring out where you will be, it becomes more difficult to follow that regimen. For persons who are transgender, many are coming out at younger ages, when they are not yet financially secure. Some are kicked out of their parents' homes, some cannot find stable or any work. All are particularly vulnerable to becoming homeless."

LSJ: "How does your ordination make a difference in your work?"

MJ: "My training in seminary and as a hospital chaplain helps me to be tuned in to the spiritual needs of clients. I can speak languages of spirituality and faith in ways that are real. When I listen to the stories of people's relationships with God, I am a representative of God that reassures and encourages. I am acknowledging that they are loved by God and that within them is a part of the divine. That can be powerful. It reminds me of the quote from Buechner, 'The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' (1) We can all do something! Paul talks about that in 1 Corinthians 12. We are different in our gifts, but together we can make up the whole body of Christ, each ministering through those unique gifts."

(1) Frederick Buechner, Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC. NY: Harper and Row, p. 95.

For more information on Whitman-Walker, see page 3.

WHITMAN-WALKER HEALTH

In 2011 Whitman-Walker Clinic changed its name to Whitman-Walker Health. The latter is to reflect their mission. The word "clinic" connotes medical care. Although treatment is critical, they also have programs of prevention and education. They offer a range of services: primary medical care, mental health care (including addictions), education, and legal help. The beginning of Whitman-Walker in 1973 was to address an underserved population, gay men. Their mission continues to specialize in the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) population. It partners with NIH (National Institute of Health) and CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) in research. Annually it treats more than 10,000 persons. Volunteers are essential. They include AmeriCorp personnel and former clients who can be highly effective peer counselors.

UMYF Fundraiser Update

1,541 pounds of clothing, linens, etc. were donated by the Congregation and we received a check in the amount of \$200.57.

The Cookie Walk brought in \$356.00.

A portion of these funds will be tithed to FUMC and the rest will be used for the youth program and spring L.I. East District Youth Retreat.

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent fundraisers.



UMYF Meeting JANUARY 15

GRADES 6-12

11:45 am - lunch at church
12:30 - 2:30 pm - Bowling at Massapequa Bowl
(Merrick Rd.)
2:45 pm - return to church

Cost per person: \$5.00 (includes shoes and 2 hrs. bowling)

Bring a friend! • Need RSVP by January 11.

LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

During the holiday season we often received gifts that we cannot use...like that fruitcake or the fancy jellies and jams you received as gifts but probably will not eat? Perhaps someone gave you flavored coffee or tea and you only drink the regular kind or a specific brand of coffee or tea.

"Most of us have food in our homes we will never eat--food that our neighbors need," Tom Goodhue, director at Long Island Council of Churches stated in a recent issue of their newsletter, "The Prelude". "This is a great time to go through the canned goods and give away anything that you are not going to use that is not dented, many years old, or otherwise inedible."

Do you have any of these that you are not going to use? Donations of baby food, infant formula, toiletries, personal care items, and shopping bags also are welcome.

If you have any of the above items to donate, please bring them to church and we will contact Pastor Goodhue to come pick them up.

Perhaps you or someone you know, would benefit from attending the following free clinics:

FREE FORECLOSURE CLINIC – JANUARY 9 – IN MINEOLA

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS FOR SENIORS –JANUARY 19 – IN MINEOLA

Contact Long Island Council of Churchesat 516-565-0290 for further information and location directions.



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.

Our Advent Journey is finished and we have arrived at our destination to welcome the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have prepared ourselves to have the Light of the World shine on us this Christmas season.

If you were unable to attend the Advent Lessons and Carols service hosted at First Church you missed a wonderful time of sharing by members of the Amityville Ecumenical community, and an excellent opportunity for members of this area to worship together.

December 18th our church had special visitors arrive ready to share the glory of the Christmas Story in the Christmas pageant. Mary and Joseph, Angels, shepherds, wise men came to help us prepare to welcome the coming of the baby Jesus into our lives and hearts once again. It is always special to watch and hear the children share this time with us.

On Christmas Eve, the light of Christ was experienced visually and symbolically through luminarias outside to greet worshippers and passers-by, in the Narthex with the candle screen, and in the Sanctuary. The service was beautiful and moving as we shared the joy of the season, received communion, sang carols, heard uplifting music, and experienced liturgical dance.

On Christmas Day there were children in pajamas—as Pastor Louise had invited them to do.

The winner of the "best all around" pajamas went to Devin Tierno. The family with the most members present was the Korbas. The person with a birthday nearest Christmas Day was Carol Ketcham. Each received homemade cinnamon rolls made by Pastor Louise. The service set the tone for sharing gifts already given or still waiting. Our New Year's Day service was Christmas Lessons and Carols.

January 8th promises to be another special day in this season. The college students will be home and they will participate in United Methodist Student Sunday. Following the morning service we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus with a pot luck lunch and special crafts for the children. That afternoon a handbell concert will be held to benefit both Habitat for Humanity and the Handbell fund. It will feature guest guitarist, Austin Gallagher, Martha Peterson's grandson, and Kim Ferrari, flutist.

We wish you Christmas Blessings and hope 2012 will bring you good health and happiness and spiritual growth as we worship and work together.



CARMEN BASSARAGH & LINDA COHEN, CO-CHAIRS

Thank you to everyone who pledged for 2012. We are happy to report that we reached our \$90,000 goal.

Please remember to pick up your 2012 offering envelopes on the table in the narthex. The initial offering envelope helps to defray the cost of printing the box of envelopes. It costs us almost \$3.00 to mail each box of envelopes. Help us save money by picking up your envelopes and perhaps delivering some to your neighbors.

Remember that Stewardship is not only about your offerings, but also about sharing your time and talents for the good of the church. There is always room to add new lectors, money counters, ushers, greeters, etc., to the group of people that already serve. If you are interested in serving in one of these capacities or perhaps joining a committee, please contact the church office (631-264-0152).

OUTREACH UPDATE

By Joan Stern

And so, the committee has yet one more Thanksgiving behind us and as always, we have many people to thank for their help in making it work.

We received many monetary donations besides all the food donations that went into making up 14 BIG Boxes for the Thanksgiving Dinner feat. The boxes included, "the bird", all kinds of vegetables, stuffing, gravies, pies and some cookies for the children, as well as potatoes, onions and bagged left over Halloween candy for the kids.

We thank, Jack Cohen and Dwayne Warta (Linda's son-in-law) for shopping what we were short of... Joan Kaplan, Martha Peterson and Bob Silz for sorting and packing and Gene La Poma for taping together, all those flattened egg boxes that were used as our "baskets".

Our thanks and appreciation to the Kiwanis organization, for their donation of 5 turkeys to help us out. A note of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Andy Powell for this kindness.

Tuesday evening our guests arrived at church at 5:30 pm under the direction of Virginia Dawson, our Social Services representative, and in less than an hour we on the committee were on our way home...another successful Thanksgiving project, put to bed.

We received notes of appreciation from everyone who came, written by the children, like, "Thank you church people for always remembering us"; "Thank you for all the goodies you send" and God bless you all for your kindness".

Does that not warm your heart to read how we made 14 families enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving like everyone else?

OUTREACH - JANUARY 2012

Change can sometimes bring on apprehension. When Outreach decided to go in a different direction regarding the Christmas Giving Tree, we were not sure what the results would be. This year we worked with Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect. We asked the congregation to bring a gift for any age child, baby upwards to teen, the results where overwhelming. Surely you viewed the boxes in the Narthex that were filled and refilled.

Thank you so much for all the love that came with your giving.

SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

The Interfaith Clergy of the Massapequas recently had a very successful Caring for the Caregiver Fair, and they are now offering Caregiver Circles to provide support for caregivers:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 2:00 – 3:30 PM at Massapequa Reformed Church (Merrick Road and Ocean Avenue)

2nd and 4th Tuesdays: 7:30 – 9:00 PM at Grace Episcopal Church Administration/School Building (Merrick Rd & Cedar Shore Drive)

If you have questions or need further info, please call Elizabeth Belasco at 516-798-1122 (church) or 516-799-7325 (home).



The Baptism Celebration of Jesus

Date: January 8
Time: 11:15 am
Place: Ireland Hall
POT LUCK LUNCHEON

Our January Intergenerational Fellowship will be a celebration of the Baptism of Jesus.

There will be games and crafts.

We ask that you bring a dish to share.

Beverages will be provided.





Christmas 2011: Poinsettias

In Loving

Memory of

- **▼** My husband, George Rovery Presented by Anita Rovery
- **▼** My son, Dwight Rovery Presented by Anita Rovery
- **♥** My husband, Raymond Rodrigues Presented by Alexandra Rodrigues
- ♥ Her parents, Martha & Lloyd Butler Presented by Cynthia & George Nester
- **♥** Her brother, William E. Butler Presented by Cynthia & George Nester
- **♥** His parents, Miriam & Harry Nester Presented by Cynthia & George Nester
- **▼** Family & friends, gone but not forgotten Presented by Eleanor Johnson
- ▼ My parents, Sarah & Bill Shires and My grandparents, Pauline & Wilbur Ketcham Presented by Rebecca Shires
- **▼** My husband, Arthur Peterson Presented with Love, Martha Peterson
- **▼** My aunt, Catherine Chichester Presented by Martha Peterson
- **▼** My husband, Clemens C. Bach Presented by Frances Bach
- **♥** My parents, Louis & Frances Wachter Presented by Frances Bach
- **▼** My father, Clemens C. Bach Presented by Lianne & M. Ellwood Fisher
- **▼** Loved Ones Presented by Lianne & M. Ellwood Fisher
- ♥ José M. Martinez, Sr.

 Love and miss you, Margo Martinez,

 José M. Martinez, Jr., Michael Martinez and

 Michelle Gonzalez
- ▼ José M. Martinez, Sr.

 Love and miss you Grandpa, Analicia & Derik

 Gonzalez and Mikaele, Milan, Mia and Mikenzie

 Martinez
- ▼ Marion & William Reinhardt (Margo's parents)

 Love from the Martinez family
- **▼** Ana & Manuel Martinez (José's parents)

 Love from the Martinez Family
- **▼** My wife, Dorothy Berger Presented by Charles Berger
- **▼** My mother, Mabel Silz Presented by Charles Berger

- ▼ My husband, Ronald Thomson, Jr. & His father, Ronald Thomson, Sr. Love, Jan Thomson & Family
- ▼ My mom, Audrey Tarasenko, Love, Jan Thomson & Family
- **▼** Family & Friends

 **Presented by Janet Powell King
- **▼ Paul & Muriel Ketcham**Presented by Paul & Carol Ketcham
- **♥** Bertrand & Estelle Henn Presented by Paul & Carol Ketcham
- **▼** Loved Ones Presented by Melissa Kennedy
- **▼** My husband, Robert C. Carbee Presented by Mary Carbee
- **▼** Loved Ones Presented by Bob & Judy Silz
- **▼** Her parents, Barbara & Bill Mc Collough Presented by Sally & Wes Powell
- ♥ His parents, Jean & Wes Powell Presented by Sally & Wes Powell
- **♥** Doris B. Powell Presented by Sally & Wes Powell
- ◆ Ann Reale Presented by Jeff, Joanne & Billy Young
- **▼** Gene Reale

 Presented by Jeff, Joanne & Billy Young
- **♥** William Mahon

 Presented by Jeff, Joanne & Billy Young

Poinsettias In Honor of

- **▼** Mother, Frances Bach Presented by Lianne & M. Ellwood Fisher
- **▼** My mother-in-law, Gertrude Thomson Presented by Jan Thomson & family
- **♥** My sister-in-law, Carol D'Agostino Presented by Jan Thomson & family
- **▼** Family & Friends

 Presented by Janet Powell King
- **♥** Our children and grandchildren Presented by Bob & Judy Silz
- **▼** Janet Powell King Presented by Sally & Wes Powell
- **▼** Sally Powell Presented by her family

Christmas 2011: Alternative Giving

Habitat for Humanity Long Island East District build In Loving Memory of

- ♥ Our son and brother, Sean Noonan
 With Love, Dale, John & Allie Noonan
- **▼ My mother, Jean Warren & loved ones** Presented by Melissa Kennedy
- **▼ My husband, Gilbert Tregarthen Stern**Forever in my heart, Love, Joan

Habitat for Humanity Long Island East District build In Honor of

♥ Wes & Sally Powell

With Love, Janet Powell King

- **▼ The Congregation of FUMC**Presented by Kate & James Peterson
- **♥** Staff at FUMC: Andres Aguilera, Linda Cohen,& Robyn Hyland

Presented by Pastor Louise

Outreach In Loving Memory of

▼ Loved Ones

Presented by Jeanne & Arthur Otis

Altar Paraments

In Honor of

▼ The Congregation—Christmas Blessings!

Heifer International

In Loving Memory of

- **▼ My Parents, Connie & Thomas Thompson** Forever in my heart, Love, Linda
- **♥** Loved Ones

Presented by Linda Thompson

- **♥ Our Parents and Grandparents**Forever in our hearts, Love Linda & Jack Cohen
- ▼ Sister, Lynn Gruenberg and Niece, Ann Marie White Love & Miss you, Linda & Jack Cohen
- **▼ Family & Friends**Presented by Janet Powell King

Gift to FUMC Handbell Fund

♥ Presented by Margot & Ken Walker

Heifer International In Honor of

- **▼ Our daughters & their families**Presented by Paul & Carol Ketcham
- **▼** Loved Ones

Presented by Linda Thompson

▼ Family & friends

Presented by Linda Thompson

- **▼ Pastor Louise & family**Presented by Linda Thompson
- ▼ FUMC Staff

 Presented by Linda Thompson
- **▼ Family & Friends**Presented by Janet Powell King

Imagine No Malaria In Honor of

- **▼ All the children in the world**Presented by Bob & Judy Silz
- ♥ Our children, Sherri & Dwayne and Mandy & Gil

With Love, Mom & Dad

- **♥ Our grandchildren, Juliana, Shayne** & Antonio James (AJ)
 With Love, Grandma & Pop-Pop
- **Youth & Adult Choirs**Presented by Robyn Hyland

CCAN (Coalition Against Chila Abuse and Neglect) In Honor of

♥ Christopher, Barbara, & Alexander Johns and Michele Johns

Presented by Pastor Louise

▼ Pastor LouisePresented by Judy & Bob Silz

- In Honor of

 ✓ All the Handbell Ringers

 Presented by Robyn Hyland
- **▼ Robyn Hyland**Presented by Judy & Bob Silz

Good Samaritan Fund In Honor of

Kate Peterson

Presented by Kevin & Linda Cummins

Leader to Leaders Workshop:

Long Island East District

FEBRUARY 4 – Westbury UMC 265 Asbury Ave Westbury, NY 11590

FEBRUARY 11 - Hampton Bays UMC

Purposes of Workshop:

Help leaders enhance skills and bring new life to congregation

Open to anyone who is interested in how we can be more effective in sharing the Gospel.

Schedule for Leader to Leaders 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. – Coffee, registration 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. - Worship 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. – Workshops 11:45 – 12:00 noon – Closing

- 1) "Men Alive" Starting or revitalizing a Men's Group Led by the Rev. Lee Gangaware and his team. Rev. Gangaware is pastor of Grace UMC, Lindenhurst.
- 2)"Cheers: A Couple of Things a Good Bartender Can Tell Ya' That Will Help Your Church" Led by the Rev. Darlene Kelley, pastor of The Clinton Avenue UMC, Kingston, NY. She is also the director of the Caring Hands Feeding Program.

Whether you are hoping to attract new folks to your church or exploring new areas of mission and ministry in your community, you will want to join us for this workshop. We'll explore everything from the Scriptural and theological ideas behind work in the community to practical tips and useful tools that will help your church reach out to the "neighborhood".

3) "Stewardship in Action" - Led by Mr. Ed Ruppmann, retired Director of Citigroup. This is an exciting, relatively new program, which focuses on helping members of the church become better stewards of our God given resources. The objective is to help one another get on solid financial ground and then give back to the church. In a few short years Stewardship in

Action has achieved remarkable growth - bequests have grown from \$125,000 to \$3.5 Million and free will offerings have grown from \$9,000 to \$40,000. Learn about programs which help your congregation and your church get back on solid financial ground.

- 4) "Effective Lay Leadership" Led by Ms. Renata Smith, Conference Lay Leader. This workshop will help laity understand their call as spiritual leaders. It will examine effective lay leadership as outlined in The Call to Action.
- 5) "The Church and Crime Victims" Led by the Rev. Dr. Louise Stowe-Johns How can the church minister to persons who have been hurt and too often marginalized? In the workshop participants will learn about the emotional toll on victims, how the church can help, and the role of restorative justice in reducing crime and thereby victims.
- 6) "Background Checks and the Safe Sanctuaries Program Getting Started to Protect Our Children. How We Can Help You." Mr. Doug Nicholson. Doug worked on the committee in his local church when the Safe Sanctuaries policy was being put in place.

The District Committee on Ministries would like to help the local churches in our district with their background checks on church staff that are required under the Safe Sanctuaries polity. We are offering to do these background checks through the district office. There will only be a minimum charge per background check, no monthly fees and all information will be held in strictest confidentiality.

7) "Holy Conferencing—Reaching a Solution: Do All Roads Lead to Rome? (Group Decision Making-Models and Methods)" Led by Mr. Fred Brewington. Fred is an Attorney with offices in Hempstead, NY Fred's service to the church includes his membership in the General Board of Church and Society. He is an instructor for Local Lay Speakers.

Please let Pastor Louise know if you are interested in attending.



Church Membership "Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and

<u>By Your Service</u>

THE BAUSCH FAMILY HAROLD ROBERT BAUSCH March 24, 1917 – December 18, 2011

THE FAMILY OF SYLVIA KAPLAN, MOTHER OF HARRY KAPLAN

Edna Kracke

From the REASURER

STEVE BRICE

By comparing the last 4 years, the Church brought in, from all sources, virtually the same amount of money. Luckily the expenses have been cut over the years and we are left with an OK balance to start 2012. As I've mentioned before, the only possible variable is the congregation donations. Support the Church and we can pay the bills. Don't and the consequences are dire.

By	Your	Pre	rsence
\sqrt{D}	ate	8 am	10 am

✓ Date		8 am	10 am	Sunday School	Total
Dec. 4		13	54	11	78
Dec. 11		18	52	17	89
Dec. 11	Ес	cumenical	Advent L	essons & Carol	s 210
Dec. 18		15	67 Pageant	16	98
Dec. 24		Ch	ristmas E	Eve	163
Dec. 25		Ch	ristmas [Day	51

ACOLYTES	Jan 29:	Ana Gonzalez and Victoria Castellano
REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE	Jan. 15: Jan. 22:	Baptism of Jesus Intergenerational Worship Stewardship Admin Council
COMMUNION STEWARDS	Jan.1:	Charlene Jourdan, Martha Peterson & Valerie Miller
Lectors	8 a.m. Month o	of January - LindaThompson

Lectors	8 a.m. Month of January - LindaThompson 10 am:		
	Jan. 1:	Linda Thompson	
	Jan. 8:	UM Student Sunday	
	Jan. 15:	Barbara La Poma	
	Jan. 22:	Dan Tierno	
	Jan. 29:	Youth Sunday	
Offering	Jan. 1:	Kate Peterson & Beverly Bode	
COUNTERS	Jan. 8:	Cathy Taylor & Martha Peterson	
COUNTERS	Jan. 15:	Barbara & Gene La Poma	
	Ian. 22:	Jasmine Allen & Joan Kaplan	

		Arlene De Land & Wes Reinhardt
Ushers	-	Dorothy Hyman, Nick Roloson, Judy Hartten
	Jan. 8:	Jasmine Allen, Doug Allen, Dorothy Bausch
	Ian 15.	Natalie Korba Mike Korba &

	Dorothy Bausch Natalie Korba, Mike Korba & Jordan Reyes Judy Silz, Bob Silz, Gene La Poma Youth
Junior	Ana Gonzalez & Zachary Korba

USHERS	*	victoria Gasteriano & Snayne wa
	Jan. 22:	Emily Korba & Ian Pagan
	Jan. 29:	Jack Dubyn & Anthony Erdody
Greeters	Jan. 1:	Tracie Harper
	Jan. 8:	Barbara Simpson

REETERS	Jan. 1:	Tracie Harper
	Jan. 8:	Barbara Simpson
	Jan. 15:	Margo Martinez
	Jan. 22:	Judy & Bob Silz
	Jan. 29:	Youth

U



Sunday, January 8th 3:00 pm

at First United Methodist Church

Featuring Austin Gallagher, guitar and Kim Ferri, flute

Free will offering to benefit Habitat for Humanity and FUMC Handbell program

Refreshments will be served in Ireland Hall following concert

Sirthda y s!



- 2 Michael Castellano
- 3 Robert Erath
- 4 Mary Carbee
 Peter Garofolo
 Kellie Anne Watson
- 7 VIRGINIA HUTCHINSON TALEN JEFFREY ROSS DAKOTA WILLENBROCK
- 8 Briana Ross
- 10 SCOTT ERATH
- II IOAN STERN
- 12 Cori Ann Kaiser Francesca Ciaramella
- 15 Frank Greenhalgh Jeanne Van Nostrand
- 16 SHERRI WARTA
- 17 Patricia Neidhart
- 19 CARRIE WATSON
- 20 RACHEL KORBA
- 21 BRUCE JORDAN LUCAS T. WILLENBROCK
- 25 CATHERINE BEDELL
- 27 Edna Kracke Jeanette Mysliewiec
- 31 RONALD BODE DICK JOHNS

HAIL & HEARTY

FOLK NEEDED

To Shovel Snow at the Church

To keep our expenses at a bare minimum, we no longer have a snow removal service. Steve Brice graciously plows our driveways.

We are in need of some younger members and friends to help clear the walkways of the Church, parsonage and Church Attic whenever we have an accumulation.

If you would be willing to help with the snow shoveling, please call the church office and leave your name and a cell phone number.

Spagnati Dinner

TALENT SHOW

Sunday, January 29

5 pm Dinner 6 pm Talent Show

Sponsored by our Youth
Suggested Donation is:

\$5.00 each for 13 years old —Adult \$3.00 each 3-12 year olds under 3 years old, free \$15.00 maximum for family.

Money raised will be put towards the registration fee for youth attending L.I. East District Youth Retreat, April 20, 21, & 22 at Camp Quinipet.

Please support our youth and attend this wonderful dinner and talent show that they are working so hard on.

Sign up Sheet to bring food and to come on Narthex table.

2012 OFFICERS:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AMITYVILLE, NEW YORK FROM

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ELECTED AT CHARGE CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 17, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

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

TRUSTEES

Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014
Pat Dougherty	Steve Brice	Joan Stern	Jasmine Allen
Luis Pagan	Luis Pagan	Roy Van Nostrand	Pat Dougherty
Linda Thompson	Carol Ketcham	George Wrage (Property Mgmt)	Linda Thompson

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastor Louise Stowe-Johns, Chair

Class of 2011 Class of 2012 Class of 2013 Class of 2014
Wes Powell Lurline Dixon Carmen Bassaragh Judy Hartten

Judy Silz Charlene Jourdan Joan Stern Valerie Miller Cathy Taylor

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2011 Class of 2012 Class of 2013 Class of 2014
Steve Brice Christine Castellano Jasmine Allen Horace Bassaragh
Gene La Poma Jeanne Otis Cori Kaiser Gene La Poma, Chair
Wes Reinhardt Kate Peterson Judy Silz Kathy Dougherty

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (serveby virtue of office)

Missy Kennedy, Carmen Bassaragh, Steve Brie, Linda Cohen, PatDougherty, Charlene Jourdan, Gene La Poma, Kate Peterson, Maha Peterson, Bob Siz, Linda Thompson

COMMITTEES (where chairs not designated, see above) Other members added at discretion of chair.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION	Jasmine Allen, Bev Bode; Wes Powell; Jan deQuillfeldt, Robyn Hyland, Linda Thompson, Judy Silz & Pastor Louise	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	TECH ALLIANCE: Website Facebook	Nicole Battista, Kathy & Pat Dougherty, Nick Roloson, Linda Thompson, Robyn Hyland
CHURCH AND SOCIETY	Bob Silz, Nicole Battista, Missy Kennedy, Mike Korba, Liz LaRosa, Eric Maxson, Nick Roloson	LABYRINTH TASK FORCE	Cathy Taylor, Dan Tierno, Pastor Louise
MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & EVANGELISM	Martha Peterson, Carol Ketcham, Barbara La Poma, Joan Stern, Linda Thompson, Jan Thomson	WORSHIP	Linda Thompson, Charlene Jourdan, Missy Kennedy, Barbara La Poma, Martha Peterson, Judy Silz, Jan Thomson

Lay Leader & Pastor serve as ex-officio of all committees. Linda Thompson is currently Lay Leader.

Other Areas of Service: THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS; LECTORS; COMMUNION STEWARDS; OFFERING COUNTERS; USHERS; GREETERS

Church and Society

Bob Silz, Chair

"The New York Annual Conference through the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world."

Vision Statement of the New York Annual Conference

If ever there was a time for United Methodists to be a beloved community of hope it is **now**. The church's primary mission is that of *making disciples of Jesus Christ*. The fundamental way that each of us can meet this commitment is to reach out to people in the name of Jesus Christ, to relate people to God, to nurture and strengthen them in their journey of discipleship, and send them into the world to be the church—inviting and receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ.

The transformation of the world to build up a healthy body of Christ can occur if, and only if, the beloved community of hope, by the Grace of God, models and embraces the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. What we do has to speak louder than what we say. This is the key to being attractional — living by example, rather than by promotional rhetoric.

The challenge to be the person God has created us to be lies in one's willingness to turn his or her life over to Him. But how would this submission be manifested in the life of an individual? Perhaps this is best stated in John Wesley's three simple rules: Do no harm, Do good, Be in love with God. What would being in love with God mean? Jesus gave the answer at Calvary! "Take up your cross and follow Me." One interpretation of this is that one must be willing to die to the self in order to follow Jesus. For Jesus and Wesley, doing good is directed at everyone, whether or not they fit the individual's feelings about "worthiness".

The Church and Society committee will continue throughout the new year to consider what social principles stated in the booklet, <u>Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2008-2012</u>,

Some of the issues that were discussed last year were

- 1. Providing low cost food packages for the needy in our area.
- 2. Creating a soup kitchen at our church or assisting another church in our area with their soup kitchen.
- 3. Providing after-school tutoring for atrisk children.
- 4. Petitioning local government for the continuation of bus lines that are the lifeline for ensuring employment for low income families in Nassau and Suffolk.
- 5. Continuing efforts to ease tensions regarding immigrants on Long Island.

Of course the success of the committee depends on the amount of support that is received by our faith community. The work ahead will not be easy and there will most likely be those who oppose some of the goals we set out to accomplish, but every small step our church can make to ease the burdens of our neighbors is a big step in the advancement of mission we set out to achieve.

Will this new year be a time to bring good news to the poor, release for the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed? All things are possible if we, the Body of Christ, are willing to devote time and resources to the practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service.



CONNECTING

The Methodist Church accomplishes a lot in this world because we are a connectional denomination. It is common to hear United Methodist leaders speak of the denomination as "the connection".

This is what UMCOM (United Methodist Communications) has on its website about the beginning of and the success of being in connection. "The United Methodist Church, which began as a movement and a loose network of local societies with a mission, has grown into one of the most carefully organized and largest denominations in the world. The United Methodist structure and organization began as a means of accomplishing the mission of spreading Scriptural Holiness over the land. John Wesley recognized the need for an organized system of communication and accountability and developed what he called the "connexion," which was an interlocking system of classes, societies, and annual conferences. (UM Member's Handbook, p 24)

"No local church is the total body of Christ.

Therefore, local United Methodist churches are bound together by a common mission and common governance that accomplish reaching out into the world. United Methodist churches and organizations join in mission with each other and with other denominations.

"Connectionalism shows through the clergy appointment system, through the developing of mission and ministry that United Methodists do together, and through giving.

"An example of connectionalism: Mission work around the world, whether it be a new university in Africa or bicycles for Cuban pastors, is the work of "the connection," as opposed to the work of a single congregation." From United Methodism 101, an online introduction to the UMC.

These are short pieces that remind us of our connectionalism. Most are from *United Methodist Newscope*, the E-Newsletter for United Methodists, November 30 & December 14, 2011 issues.

PRAYING FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE:

The legislative body of the United Methodist Church is General Conference. It meets every four years. This is the year it will meet in April in Tampa, Florida. We are asked to be praying for God's will to be done in the General Conference. Like any legislative process, at times the work can be tense and sadly, rancorous and even mean. Let's pray for the Spirit of God to lead the preparation that is going on now and continue praying for a Conference that lifts up Christ—not personal agendas.

"4% BUDGET REDUCTION RECOMMENDED FOR BISHOPS

General Conference will take up a recommended 2013-16 budget of more than \$90 million to support The UMC's 157 active and retired bishops. The Episcopal Fund, paid for by congregational giving, supports the salaries, housing, travel and other expenses of active bishops as well as the salaries and benefits of some of their support staff. The fund also provides for retired bishops, surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops.

"The 2012 General Conference will consider proposals to eliminate three episcopal areas-that is, three bishop positions-in the U.S. and add a new episcopal area in the rapidly growing Democratic Republic of Congo." --Heather Hahn, UMNS

OBESITY RISING: RELIGION & FOOD CAN BE UNHEALTHY COMBINATION

"People who attend services or otherwise participate in organized religion weekly are more likely to be obese than those who never participate, according to a report" through Kintera.org. "The multiple health benefits of an active faith life tend to stop at four-course Shabbat meals and church supper tables groaning with fried meat, biscuits and gravy....

"The integral role food plays in many religious rituals and social functions and a desire not to stigmatize overweight members are among the reasons researchers offer for this anomaly in findings related to religion and health."

CONT. FROM PAGE 14

ENDING HUNGER

Every minute in the United States eleven children who are five or younger die of "hunger-related causes and about 800 million people suffer from chronic or acute hunger." The General Board (of the UMC) of Church and Society has suggestions for ways to make a difference. These are highlights:

- 1. Go the second mile through The Advance http://new.gbgm-umc.org/advance. The Advance, an accountable, designated-giving arm of The UMC, ensures 100% of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry.
- 2. Buy a water buffalo—or a goat—or a flock of chickens through Heifer International. The UMC partners with Heifer International. This truly is the gift that keeps on giving, since offspring are given to another family in the community.
- 3. Join hands with Kiva. They are a non-profit organization with a "mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world." More information at http://www.kiva.org.
- 4. Participate in "Stop Hunger Now", a UM partner that coordinates food distribution.
- 5. Urge Congress to end hunger through Bread for the World, an interfaith organization.
- 6. Give on Souper Bowl Sunday (February 5, 2012).
 -Barbara Dunlap-Berg, UM Communications

And always: Support our food pantry. At the front door of the church is a basket to collect staples which are given primarily to St. Martins of Tours Parish Outreach (Amityville).

FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF UNITED METHODISTS

About 62% of adult Americans have a favorable impression of UMs. That's according to a new survey [through www.kintera.org] from LifeWay Research, the Southern Baptist Convention's research arm. The survey looks at perceptions of faith groups among adults in the U.S. UM had the highest percentage of favorable impressions among the faith groups listed in the survey-which also included Roman Catholics, Southern Baptists, Mormons and Muslims-with 15% of respondents reporting very favorable impressions and 47% reporting somewhat favorable. –UMNS

NEW YORK'S BISHOP

The Council of Bishops assigned our bishop, Jeremiah Park, to be the first presiding bishop of the denomination's Mongolia mission. In a letter to the New York Annual Conference, Park said he expects to travel to Mongolia once a year to conduct an annual meeting and to supervise, support and strengthen the mission in collaboration with the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM).



The committee met on November 29 to discuss ways that we as a group could assist in the growth of the Congregation. We have been regularly reviewing the list of active & inactive members.

We talked about perhaps offering a monthly Friday luncheon. The goal and purpose would be to draw from the Village area, make people aware of our existence, what we do and perhaps join our congregation. A project like this would take the cooperation and assistance of the entire church family to make it successful. We will be discussing this further at our next meeting on January 10.

CHRISTMAS 2011: ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Gift to FUMC Handbell Fund In Memory of

▼ My godparents, Clare and Lester Scheller Presented by Robyn Hyland

UMCOR Water & Sanítatíon Program In Honor of

♥ Pastor LouisePresented by Robyn Hyland

UMCOR Horn of Africa Crisis In Honor of

▼ Linda Thompson

Presented by Robyn Hyland

"We Lift As We Climb"

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Program

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Monday, January 16 10:00 a.m.

"We lift as we climb" is the theme of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. program at our sister church, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.), Copiague. The program is on Monday, January 16, 10 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Luis Carlo, Associate Dean, Alliance Theological Seminary, NYC, will be the guest speaker.

Our congregation has been invited—as in the past—to join Bethel and other groups. There will be a lunch following the program. Reservations for the meal only should be made through Beverly Brewster (631-789-3020) after 6:00 p.m.

Bethel was the first A.M.E. Church, and perhaps the first of any black congregation, on Long Island. It was established almost 200 years ago in Amityville on Albany Avenue. In the 1960s they moved to their current location in Copiague. It has a membership of more than 600.



Julia Beckmann (left) played in the Westminster Bell Choir Concert, Princeton, N. J., December 4, 2011.

Thirteen bell ringers from FUMC attended the concert, "Ringing in the Season". Two of those ringers included Cori Kaiser (center) and Kim Ferrari (right).

Sunday, January 22:

DEDICATION OF 2012 OFFICERS:

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.: ANNUAL RETREAT: CHURCH COUNCIL

Lunch will be served. Cost: \$5

RSVP needed by January 15.

Officers and Committee members are invited to attend. Also, anyone who has an interest in plans for 2012 (and beyond) is welcome to come.

Youth Clothing Fundraiser

For two years the youth have had a fundraiser through the donation of used clothing. The company that buys the clothing is Fashion Republic. The company is based in New Jersey.

Information from their website: All wearable clothing is shipped for people to wear. Nothing is shredded or cut into industrial rags. They ship clothing to Poland, Republic of Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, India, and other countries. It is sold at local markets and thrift stores at affordable prices.

In 2010, there were 1,688 pounds purchased for which \$222.31 was received.

In 2011, there were 1,541 pounds purchased for which \$200.57 was received.



First United Methodist Church

amitychurch@optimum.net AmityUnitedMethodistChurch.org
25 Broadway, Amityville, NY 11701 631 264-0152
The Rev. Dr. Louise-Stowe-Johns, Pastor
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

Every Sunday Schedule

8 & 10 am Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10 am Sunday School 11:15 am Youth Choir

January 2012

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

Support Group Meetings—basement AA Wednesday & Saturdays @ 8 pm

IH Ireland Hall BH Binkley Hall AR Amanda's Room P Parlor

Note: Please check your Sunday insert for Handbell Rehearsals.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday After Christmas	2 Office Closed 7:30 pm Worship	3 Office Closed	7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens. HB	5 5 pm Finance (P)	6 8 pm PeaceSmith's (IH) 6:30 pm Parents with Young	7 9 am 1st Ens. HB
8 Baptism of Our Lord 1st Sunday After the Epiphany UM Student Sunday 11:15 am Intergenerational Fellowship	9	10 10:30 am M-N-E 6:30 pm Parents with Young Children	7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens. HB	12	13	14 9 am 1st Ens. HB
15 2nd Sunday After Epiphany Human Relations Sunday 11:45 am UMYF Meeting & Bowling	16 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)	6:30 pm Parents with Young Children	18 7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens. HB hop's Convocation, C	19	20	21 9 am 1st Ens. HB
22 3rd Sunday After Epiphany 11:45 am—4 pm	23 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)	24 6:30 pm Parents with Young Children	25 7:15 pm Adult HB 7:45 pm 1st Ens.	26	27	28 9 am 1st Ens. HB
29 4th Sunday After Epiphany Youth Led Sunday 5 pm 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner &	30 7:30 pm Irish Dancers (IH)	31	Adult HB: A	irst Church Handb Adult Handbell Gro College Handbell Middle/High Scho	oup	

First United Methodist Church 25 Broadway Amityville, NY 11701

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Louise Stowe-Johns
Director of Music Ministry: Robyn Hyland, AGO
Secretary: Linda Cohen
Sexton: Andres Aguilera
Newsletter Editor: Sherri Warta
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AmityUnitedMethodistChurch.org
amitychurch@optimum.net
Sunday Services: 8 & 10 am
Sunday School - 10 am

Return Service Requested



Dated Church Material



Photos in this issue by: Fred Fehlesein

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A Blessed Healthy New Year

Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to receive offering envelopes, please contact the church office.

