

Uniondale Messenger

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I Love My Attorney

After living what I felt was a 'decent' life, my time on earth came to the end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table. As I looked around I saw the 'prosecutor'. He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left and there sat My Attorney, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed so familiar to me, I felt I knew Him.

The corner door opened and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room. I couldn't take my eyes off of Him. As He took His seat behind the bench, He said, 'Let us begin.'

The prosecutor rose and said, 'My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell.' He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life, and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about. As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I'd done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, 'This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.' When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if He might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward. As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendor and majesty. I realized why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, 'HI, DAD,' and then He turned to address the court. 'Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wage of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished.' Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, 'However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted Me as his Savior, so he is Mine.'

My Lord continued with, 'His name is written in the Book of Life, and no one can snatch him from Me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy.' As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and said, 'There is nothing else that needs to be done. I've done it all..' The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips..... 'This man is free. The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed.' I asked Jesus as He gave me my instructions where to go next, 'Have you ever lost a case?'

Christ lovingly smiled and said, 'Everyone that has come to Me and asked Me to represent them has received the same verdict as you, ~Paid In Full.'

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st - Brent McAfee

3rd - Don Weaver

11th - Betty Johnson

12th - Erick & Jessica Kahn

19th - Aubree Horne

29th - Doris Emley

30th - Troy & Mindy Drayer



Update from Laura Elzey:

Happy Easter to everyone from the Dominican Republic!

What I have enjoyed most about being a volunteer is meeting so many wonderful people (Dominicans and other volunteers). I've discovered that with each person I meet, I can learn something new as well as share my own knowledge and experience. Everyone has an interesting story and through conversing with others, I am learning to have pride in where I am from and my own story.

Although meeting people has been what I've enjoyed most here, it has also provided the most challenges. The difference in food, amenities, language, and dance were easy to adjust to. It is the cultural subtleties such as word choice, views of certain groups, sense of humor, mannerisms, expectations of others, and countless more that have been the most difficult to "understand". I am starting to realize that I will never understand why Dominicans scrunch up their nose when they want to say "what?" I am also learning that despite a world of cultural differences, there are good people with lessons to teach everywhere. With all of our differences, we still are more alike than not. We share goodness, love, and a will to help make the lives of those around us better.

Keep me in your thoughts and prayers!

Vision/Evangelism Committee Report First Quarter 2013

The committee met on January 30th and February 27th. We reviewed the Vision statement and decided to present this statement to Board for official approval:

"Uniondale United Methodist Church is a refuge to the surrounding Community from the bombardments of everyday life, by providing a welcoming, friendly, and Christ-centered atmosphere along with a "back to the basics" traditional approach to service, music, fellowship, and community outreach."

Some activities or items that the group addressed:

- A. Welcome Bags/Replenish
- B. Shut-in visits - follow up – recordings - need players and c/d's
- C. Improve outreach for new people - after first visit
- D. Troy sends bulletins to people who miss service – continue
- E. Care grams – continue, need help identifying those to send to
- F. Faith Circle-continuing and going well.
- G. Visitor cards for pews

- H. Do we need to refocus our outreach? Perhaps empty nesters
- I. How to improve shut-in visits
- J. Get people more involved – survey to get congregation's input
- K. Vision Statement banner

Events planned or considered:

- Family/kids Movie Night- April ??
- Community Easter Egg Hunt – March 30th –about 40 children
- Church Picnic- 2 dates, June 2nd, June 23rd in case of rain out on 2nd
- No outdoor concert – consider having a group in
- Trunk or Treat - Thursday October 31, 2013
- Bring a Friend Sunday-set for September 29th
- Church wide fellowship gathering-scheduled for March 2nd –about 30
- Family retreat-maybe a day at a lake-Kent looking into

The committee is looking forward to reviewing the results of the survey. The group is focused on continued improvement of the overall church experience for the Uniondale UMC congregation.

Confessions of a Single Girl, living in a small town

Suffer with Me Awhile

Glynnis Whitwer

"Then he said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.'" Matthew 26:38 (NIV)

I dipped my piece of torn bread in the cup of dark purple juice and placed it in my mouth. I tasted the ripeness of the fruit and savored the texture of the bread. "I will remember, Lord." I spoke the words in my head, silently thanking Jesus for the sacrifice He made for me on the cross. Within a minute, the aftertaste of the juice distracted my communion meditation. It was more bitter than usual and I thought about taking a sip of something else to remove the flavor from my mouth. Should I grab my coffee, or some water? Immediately, the Lord spoke to my heart: "*Suffer with Me awhile.*" Sadness filled my heart as I realized how quickly I wanted to remove the unpleasant taste ... how fast my thoughts drifted from the suffering of Christ to my own comfort. And I wondered how many times my self-focus had led me away from obedience in the hard places of life. The Bible tells of three disciples who also chose comfort over obedience. On the night of His betrayal, Jesus asked Peter, James and John to watch and wait for Him while He prayed. During the time when our Lord was "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," His closest friends couldn't keep awake. Three times Jesus returned to find them sleeping. For those disciples, it was sleep that drew them from Christ's request to keep watch with Him. What is it for me? What keeps me from obeying Jesus' requests? Oh, the easy ones I have no problem with. It's the ones that infringe on my comfort that I wrestle with.

Someday, we'll get to enjoy heaven and all its perfection. But for now, the work God calls us to do here on earth is often uncomfortable, physically tiring and emotionally draining. Some days it's downright dirty and difficult. While my flesh would prefer a cushy assignment, I don't want to shake the nail-scarred hands of Jesus—the hands that touched lepers, the hands that stroked the head of a broken sinful woman—with hands that have never gotten dirty with life. During this time before Easter, consider what sacrifices the Lord might be asking of you. Perhaps it's serving in an area at church that's difficult, reaching out to an unfriendly neighbor, or mending a damaged relationship. Or maybe it's getting less sleep in order to wake up and spend time with Him through prayer and reading Scripture. Moving from serving in comfort, to serving in sacrifice, builds spiritual character and maturity. But more than that, our hearts unite with Christ as a suffering servant. Jesus asked us to carry our cross daily. Before we can truly appreciate what happened on the cross 2000 years ago, or the resurrection that happened on Easter, we need to deny ourselves and follow Jesus wherever He leads. And stay awake while we do.

Ananda

Heavenly Father, You are faithful and awesome. Forgive me when I disobey Your requests to sacrifice my own comfort. I ask for a heart like Yours that sees beyond the surface of this life, a heart that sees the work that needs to be done from an eternal perspective. Please give me courage and boldness to become a steadfast servant, pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Let's Not Forget...

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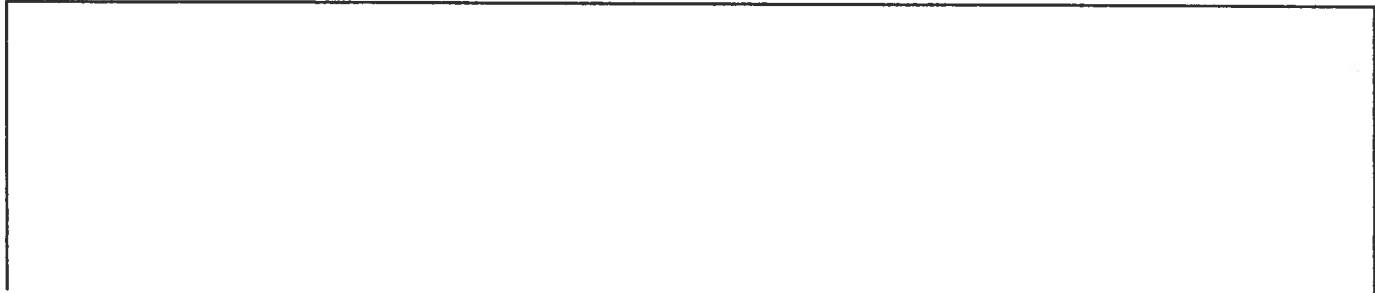
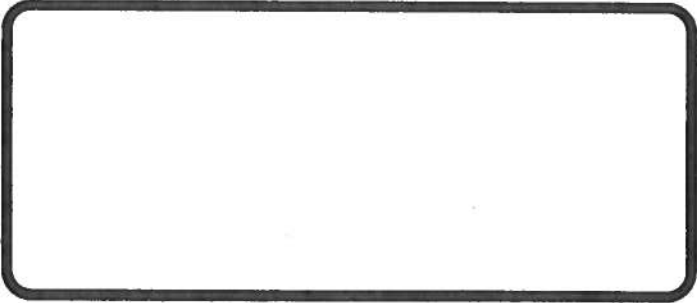
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March Budget Summary	March Actual	March Budget	March Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,087.01	4,122.42	(1,035.41)	9,629.14	12,367.26	(2,738.12)
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	5,034.41	4,122.43	(911.98)	11,586.21	12,367.29	781.08
	* \$1,314.50 for insurance paid from Building Fund.					
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(1,947.40)	(0.01)		(1,957.07)	(0.03)	

