

# GRACE NOTES NEWSLETTER

## ST ALBANS GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ISSUE 13

Rev. Harold A. Andrews, Pastor

DEC, 2012

### A POWERFUL LAITY MESSAGE ON LAITY SUNDAY

Our Certified Lay Servant and Lay Leader, Antoinette Martin rendered a very powerful message to the laity, on Sunday, October 21, 2012.

She began describing Methodism and a little about the founder John Wesley and his brother Charles. She stated, "When we become members of the United Methodist Church, we promise 'to be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church in all our power to strengthen its ministries; to truthfully participate in the ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.'"

She further stated "We affirm these vows every time we witness members entering our fold, joining our churches. These vows are also part of our Baptismal Covenant and our Sacrament of Confirmation."

She reminded us of Jesus being a servant. As servants we are His disciples serving others. Whatever we do in ministry requires being a servant. She mentioned some of the ministries we serve by being a part of various committees and being a part of worship by singing, reading and participating in other ways.

As our body parts are equal and have different functions, no part is better than the other. Our speaker stated that all of us are equal in service and no ministry is greater than another. What is important is our service.

An example of no part in ministry is better than another, came to mind as she reminded us of a conversation concerning James and John wanting to share either side of Jesus when He came into His kingdom. Jesus told them that authority was not His to give. The two disciples were jostling for position of favoritism.

She brought our attention to Matthew 5:13-16. We hear Jesus telling us that we are the salt of the earth and that if we aren't careful, we will lose our saltiness and be good for nothing.

She warned us "Serving God in the church does not mean we are to neglect our family and friends due to the busyness of church life!"

This reporter admits that his "Amens" and moisture from the eyes were because of his memory of "back in the day" when the speaker was one of many MYF youths where "Stealing the Bacon" in Wesley Hall was one of the fun games after worship and business were done.

**To God be the glory!**

Dr. Mel Hall, Reporter

## A CELEBRATION FOR Pastor Vera Isaacs

It was Sunday, October 14, 2012, a month of celebrations of God's people following God's Word. So how appropriate it was to take a moment to honor the work of one of God's anointed workers in the vineyard. Yes, Grace Church, St. Albans took this moment to recognize and congratulate one Pastor Vera Isaacs in her new appointment as local Pastor at the United Methodist Church Home in Brooklyn. The recognition began with an introduction from our Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson, Ms. Yvonne Tatum. Followed by the Class Leader for Class 25, Mrs. Seneca Lovelace. She read a prepared statement of the many accomplishments of Pastor Isaac during her membership at Grace Church. Mrs. Lovelace said, "It gives me great pleasure this morning to salute my friend and sister, *Pastor Vera Isaacs*. I am here on behalf of class 25, Vera is a member and was the leader of class 25 when I joined this church 21 years ago. Vera is the epiphany of a true and faithful servant of the Lord. Her life in this church reflects this faithfulness.



"Some of the many accomplishments of Pastor Isaacs include, Sunday School teacher, member of the Eucharistic Team, Class Leader of Class 25 for more than ten years, and the leader at Grace who spearheaded the AIDS Ministry. After each facet of accomplishment Mrs. Lovelace echoed "***That was preparation for who she is today.***" Mrs. Lovelace closed her praise of Pastor Isaacs with the following statement, "Was she called by God to do his work? Yes, and was she well prepared by Him? Yes, so we know God will continue to lead you and we know that you will continue to follow his direction. So with confidence of your success, we wish you well, you true and faithful servant." After this eloquent presentation Pastor Isaacs was presented with gifts from her Grace Church Family that she will be able to use in her ministry from this day forward. Pastor Vera Isaacs, we wish you Godspeed!

Reporter: Mrs. Antoinette Martin

## FASHION SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA!

**W**esley Hall took on a Red Carpet Runway appearance, Saturday, October 27, 2012 when the Friendship Circle and the Youth presented Fashion Show Extravaganza. And what an exciting evening and show it was!

Tonai Perez gave a warm welcome and introduced the MC (Donna Perez) who called upon our pastor, Rev. Harold A. Andrews for the opening prayer.

The MC did an excellent job in energizing the audience to encourage the younger and older-young models, actors and actresses.

The program read, "Style is like a muscle, you have to exercise it regularly or you'll lose it" Nina Garcia. Well, we saw all kinds of styles: Scene I. School/Sports, Scene II. Kool Kids, Scene III Sunday's Best, Scene IV. Masquerade Ball, and Scene V. Family Wear.

In between the modeling scenes were poetry reading, a song selection, dance selection "Michael Jackson" performed by Dawan Pascoe and a "church" scene with Tonai "delivering the message."

The models were: Sanai Bailey, Alaska Ballantine, Andre Blagrove, Myah Blagrove, Russell Bolling, Imani Brown, Candian Davis, Kaitlyn Davis, Leah Donovan, Neveah Donovan, Michelle Eichelberger, Dominic Epps, Katherine Fong, Shanice Forbes, Janei George, Sy'rai Griffin, Samirra Hamilton, Shem Hazel, Christopher Hope, Xavier Juarex, Malachi Johnson-Cox, Isaiah Lewis, Kevin Mahoney, Christian Martin, Shabastian Mejia, Shenay Mejia, Shenell Mejia, Maya Norman, Philip Oden, Jr., Dawan Pascoe, Nijah Phills, Nina Pitter, Sanaa Reaves, Briannah Rey, Jocelynn Rolle, Ganelle Russell, Ghordyn Russell, Sy'rai Ryan, Danielle Smilley, Ester Smilley, Travon Spears, Christina Taylor, Nyah Thomas, Kayson Walker, Khamilla Walker, Kellar Walker, Arianna Walters, Isaiah Warren, Tasia Williams and Joshua Wright.

This was a great show, which made for a grand evening. The excitement was overwhelming! The children and the adults were in one voice in expressing their enjoyment.

The grand finale was with the "parade of stars" with their mothers taking their bows and with appeals and support for continued research for the cure for Breast Cancer.

Pastor Andrews was overwhelmed! He has lots of pictures to remind him of the night Wesley Hall became a red-carpet evening of Fashion Show Extravaganza.

The suggestion to make this an annual event may well become a reality.

**To God be the glory!** Dr. Mel Hall, Reporter



To see more pictures from the fashion show's red carpet...like us on face book  
[Grace United Methodist Church of Saint Albans](#) and continue to check us out for Church updates.

**Courtesy of Jacqueline Lane**

**Dr. Herbert Watkins**  
**Speaker on Mission Sunday at His Church in Texas**

Herbert and Norma Watkins visited First United Methodist Church, Gilmer, Texas, September 23, 2012 where and when their son, Dr. Herbert Watkins was the guest speaker.

Herbert has always been a part of the United Methodist Church. His first UMC was in Brooklyn. When his family moved to Rosedale (Queens) NY they joined the St Albans Grace UMC family.

Herbert's growing up, was greatly influenced by his maternal and paternal grandparents, parents, and the United Methodist Church also had much to do with his growth and remaining true to his early determination to be a physician.

Dr. Watkins received his university education at Harvard University completing a B.A. in Biology, graduating Cum Laude in General Studies. He attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City completing his work in 1990. When attending Harvard University, Rev. Dr. Glyzer G. Beach, his pastor at Grace, obtain a scholarship for Herbert. When entering Baylor College of Medicine he was awarded a Crusade Scholarship at the Annual Conference at Lexington, KY.

His post graduate work included an internship at the Department of Surgery followed by Urology residency and ending in December 1996 at the Department of Urology, all at Baylor College of Medicine in Dallas, Texas. In 1996 he was Board Certified in Urology.

In his introduction of Dr. Watkins as the guest speaker, Rev. Richard Laster spoke highly of him as his doctor. He stated that his research led him to making the right choice.

Further, he said he did not know what to expect prior to meeting his Urologist. However, Dr. Watkins' professionalism, gentleness and demeanor caused him to take an instant liking to him. Consequently, they became friends and Dr. Watkins later joined his church.

Dr. Watkins' curriculum vitae, notes the following appointments prior to his relocation to Mt. Pleasant for his own private practice in January 2012

Clinical Instructor in Urology, Baylor College of Medicine July 92 –Dec. 20, 2011

- Associate Chief of Urology, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital 1999 – 2007
- Associate Chief of Urology, Kelsey-Seibold Clinic 1999 – 2011
- Secretary-Treasurer, Kelsey-Seibold Board of Directors 4/01 – 4/02
- Vice-Chair, Kelsey-Seibold Board of Directors 4/02 - 4/07

His memberships and Associations include:

- Associate Member and Officer, Texas Urology Society
- Associate Member, American Urological Association
- Member and Officer of, Board of Directors, American Diabetes Association, Houston Council
- Member and Officer of, Board of Directors, National Kidney Foundation of Southwest Texas Committee and

Council, National Kidney Foundation of Southwest Texas

Dr. Watkins has received a variety of prestigious awards and honors.

His pastor's favorite is the recognition of Dr. Watkins being referred

to as a "Super Doctor" in a Texan Medical Journal. Rev. Laster said

that the journal states that only a few doctors in Texas have been given that

distinction. Incidentally, Rev. Laster was with the New York Annual Conference prior to re-locating to Texas.

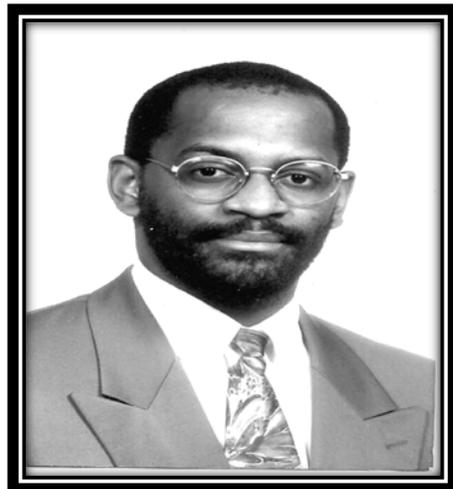
Dr. Watkins message was about **Mission** as the United Methodist Church relates to it and is known for it at home and globally. Embodied in his message was his love for the United Methodist Church in his youth and as an adult because of what the church does in its global ministries. He was appropriately humorous while sharing the seriousness of **Mission** and much of what **Mission** means at home and abroad in the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Watkins recognizes, acknowledges and is extremely grateful for all of his spiritual and professional blessings. His humility endears him to everyone he meets - socially, professionally and in his home church.

He is the proud father of three daughters: Kamala (20), Soroya (18) and Leah (16).

**To God be the glory!**

**Dr. Mel Hall, Reporter**



## “THE GREATEST GIFT”

Christmas is a time that we associate with the giving and receiving of gifts. The world, long ago, in ancient times was awaiting a gift as well. We learn this from Isaiah 9:2, 6. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Yes, the folk back then yearned for someone to come and lift the yolk of sin and to do away with war and strife in the world. They prayed to God to send them the Light to do away with the darkness - the Light in the form of a child who will bring peace to the world. The prophet Isaiah gave voice to that longing and prophesied that the yearning will come to pass in the future. He described this future King of righteousness as “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Hundreds of years passed and there were many who gave up hope that such a prophecy will ever become reality. In the meantime, world conditions grew worse. Then when the time was right God sent his only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in him would inherit eternal life. Just as Isaiah had prophesied, Jesus came into the world preaching and teaching a gospel of peace and goodwill towards all. His message was so revolutionary that the authorities of the day had him killed by crucifixion. But he defied them and showed who the real authority was by raising himself from the dead. He is in the world today listening to our prayers and tending to and fulfilling our needs. He promises to come once more to banish all earthly strife and death and to usher in peace, joy and happiness. We can't wait for this to happen given the current state of the world.

Jesus' birth just over two thousand years ago was and is the greatest gift to humankind. His coming into the world was a miracle. He alone can give us and the world what is really needed. Let us celebrate Jesus' birth as we have never celebrated before not by getting drunk with wine, but by getting drunk with joy for all that he has done for us! When we open our gifts, I hope that they will be just what we wanted. May we receive our miracle! As we jump for joy, as we gaze excitedly on our gifts let us remember that no matter how thrilled we are with them, not one of them would be able to surpass God's gift to us all, Jesus the Christ, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father born in a stable to Mary and Joseph. He, Jesus, is the Greatest Gift of all. Yes, not the latest toys, not the latest fashion, not expensive jewelry, not the car, not the huge flat screen TV. Jesus is the Greatest Gift of all and He is the reason for the Holidays!

Come let us adore Him. Come let us worship him. Come let us praise Him for He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Beginning and the End.

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish you a merry, safe and blessed Christmas!

Rev. Harold A. Andrews



## THINK ON THESE THINGS

### SURPRISE GIFTS



**G**ifts are special things.

If you are anticipating a gift, there is an element of both dread and expectation. Will the gift be disappointing or will it be just what you wanted? If you are not expecting a gift, the surprise can be very overwhelming as well as very gratifying. A thoughtful surprise gift is an unforgettable event for most of us. What is the quality of a gift? What makes gifts so special or not so special? It's their value to you, their significance, the memory they establish or the relationship they confirm.

A gift may be unpleasant if it is coming from a source that we are not particularly fond of. A gift might be unpleasant if it does not fit the situation, or the person giving it or the person receiving it. So, not all gifts are enjoyable. Not all gifts are blessings. Gifts are not only visible things. Time, effort, support, presence, thoughts, ideas, prayers of faith, good example, great advice and other intangible but valuable things are all immeasurable gifts.

Today, we want to focus on gifts from God, which we take for granted, or which we do not realize are gifts, or which we do not treat as the great gifts they are - to be expected and to be joyfully received.

**Some gifts taken for granted would be:** our senses; our auto-immune system which keeps us alive; being chosen for such a time as this; born into the families we have been; not being in a war zone; and living our lives in relative peace and security; the love of family and friends; the air we breathe and the water we drink. Yet, we do know that 'every good and perfect gift comes from God'.

The Bible tells us about our most basic blessing in this way: "And also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor – **it is the gift of God.**" Ecclesiastes 3:13

**Some gifts are not consciously recognized,** such as - the chance to live another decade, to serve and influence others for good, to learn not just in school but from others, to share your blessings, the chance to live with joy and hope, or the chance to keep changing and becoming better, greater and more holy.

The Bible confirms: "Also, every man to whom God has given riches and possessions, and the power to enjoy them and to accept his appointed lot and to rejoice in his toil—**this is the gift of God** [to him]." Ecclesiastes 5:19

We are often not experiencing circumstances and situations as gifts, except in retrospect, because we are so 'busy living'.

**Among the great gifts that we should capitalize on, and in which we should rejoice because they signify and confirm God's LOVE for us are the following:**

"For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but **it is the gift of God.**" Ephesians 2:8

“Now there are **distinctive varieties and distributions of endowments (gifts, extraordinary powers** distinguishing certain Christians, due to the power of divine grace operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit) and they vary, but the [Holy] Spirit remains the same.” 1 Corinthians 12:4

“**Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities)** that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: [He whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith.” Romans 12:6

You, therefore, do not have to look very far to find your gifts in this season. They are actually overflowing already in your life, once you recognize them and receive them fully. Let’s be thankful at all times, above all, for the gift of God’s precious son.



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**Attention: Former Youth of Grace UMC., St. Albans (Queens)  
Sharing Your Past Activities and Present Experiences in Grace Notes**

**M**any of Grace’s former “Tiny Tots” and others (now adults) have done extremely well.

And we are very proud of all of you. Grace has always been children and young adults oriented, and many ministries and programs such as Tiny Tots, scouting, Methodist Youth Fellowship, Ars Nova, drama classes, La Jeune Societe, tutoring, cooking classes, softball (girls and boys), basketball, candle light poetry reading café in Fellowship Hall and more.

You perhaps remember your days when you were supported and guided in whatever you decided to do in fundraising for your individual youth groups.

Remember Ms. Tolland’s June Revels and just about every choir member of all ages had an individual or group part?

Offhand, I can think of many of you who have become physicians, dentists, nurses, educators, scientists, entrepreneurs, social workers, pharmaceutical representatives, and more as young people running in Wesley Hall “Stealing the Bacon” and trying to figure out all sorts of observation games. **Do you remember?**

If you care to share with the present and your yesteryear’s Grace Family, please send me your write up and I will submit it to the Grace Notes Committee. When you do, please state the date that you were having such a great time in Wesley Hall.

Others would like to read about you.

Dr. Melvin R. Hall - [mhall2401@gmail.com](mailto:mhall2401@gmail.com)



## **Birth Notice**

With great joy and a wee bit of fanfare,  
Aiden Y'lijah made his entry into the world on Tuesday Dec 4 at 6:47 pm.

His parents Ashley Beach-Reid and Reggie K. Reid, welcomed their 9 lb., 4 oz baby boy with great joy.  
Proud grandmothers, Faye Wilson and Renee Reid, were on hand for the delivery.

**We all are grateful to God for this blessing!!!**

## **My Grandson and Jesus**

While at Sight N Sound Theatre seeing Jonah. My Grandson turned to me and said "Grandma have you seen Jesus?" I replied no, he said "that's cause you don't pray hard enough". You have to pray every day, every minute and every hour. So I asked, have you seen Jesus and he said "yes just now." Then I told him I'm not talking about the actor on the stage and he said me neither. Jesus was standing right next to me and he whispered *Malachi I love you.* After looking at the seriousness in his face there was nothing left for me to say or do but finish watching the show.

A true story... By Jacqueline Lane

## **KUDOS to Dr. Mel Hall!!**

Dr. Melvin Hall has been blessed by being invited to bring the message and having book signings at churches and other events. The following is a list of invitations he has been privileged to have had in 2012

June 9, 2012 Women's Day Brunch, Living Praise Tabernacle, Thomasine Catering Hall, Rev. Doris Bass, Pastor`

June 17, 2012 Hempstead UMC, Father's Day, Rev. Barbara Mungin, Pastor

June 24, 2012 Mt. Olivet Baptist Church of Hollis, Annual Graduation Program, Rev. Dr. James B. Barnwell, III, Pastor

June 28, 2012 Stepping Stone South Eastern Queens Pre-Grade School Graduation PS 136, Ms. Madge Warren, Founder

July 22, 2012 New Fellowship Full Gospel Baptist Church, Elder George Finnie, Sr., Pastor

September 8, 2012 Union United Methodist Church, Brooklyn for their 166th Anniversary, Rev. David Ball, Pastor

October 14, 2012 for Men's Day at the Hollis Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Mark L. Chapman, Pastor

Dr. Hall, keep up the good work. We are proud of your accomplishments inspired by your book, entitled,

**" THE SKY'S THE LIMIT...GO FOR THE GOLD!**

To order a copy, contact him at [mhall2401@gmail.com](mailto:mhall2401@gmail.com) or order it from the publisher at [authorhouse.com](http://authorhouse.com)

# CANDLE OF LOVE



But then God our Savior showed us his kindness and love. He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy.

Titus 3:4-5a (NLT)



An \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to Mary and told her she would have a child and name him Jesus.

GAERT

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RIADFA

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## Bible Memory Verse

You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:31 (NIV)

**ANSWERS**  
great, king  
child, afraid  
angel

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!! HAPPY QUANZA!!**

**GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAY**

**FROM YOUR GRACE NOTES TEAM.**

### **Donations for Grace Notes Newsletter**

Allen Wilson - \$25.00  
Joan Thompson - donation of printing paper

We are thankful for your generosity of monetary contribution, your support in providing articles, your time spent reading the Newsletter and your kind words of encouragement in support of Grace Notes Newsletter. We greatly appreciate your support. Continue the journey with us as we embark on new ideas to keep you inspired.

### **Grace Mourns the Passing of Members and friends**

Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to the families and friends of those who have lost love ones this year. More recently, the following members and friends have been called home.

Granville Davis

Clarine Drakes

Erline Morton

Edith Jane Tyrrell

Carole Louise Williams

Patrick Alexander

To their families and friends, take comfort in our comforter, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 (NIV)**



**WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES AND NOTICES FOR UPCOMING ISSUES OF GRACE NOTES NEWSLETTER. SEND ALL YOU CAN!!**

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**WORSHIP HOURS**

Sunday school: 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Church worship begins at 9:45 AM

One hour of prayer, on Friday at 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

***ALL ARE INVITED***

***Church Office: 718-465-5621***

**GRACE NOTES NEWSLETTER**

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