

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

April 2005

Vol. 53, No. 4

From the Pastor's Study...

Behold, I am doing a new thing!

now it springs forth,

do you not perceive it?

Isaiah 43:19a

Can you feel the hope? the energy? the fulfillment of this promise? It is the Eastertide season and the glorious celebration of the empty tomb and the Risen Christ reassures us once again of God's saving grace. It is because of this Easter event that we can live "in the sure and certain hope" that God is ever victorious over death, whether it be in this life or the next. In fact, all of life is seen through the lenses of our resurrection faith, and our values and priorities and choices are reflections and responses to the Christ event.

This year the resurrection story and our Easter celebration put an exclamation mark on Lexington UMC's future vision created at our *Future Search Weekend*. It was a time of recognizing what is possible for our congregation as it faces its future. The living energy of the Risen Christ flowed through all of our discussions and decisions. Dire and "deadly" forecasts will not have the final say at Lexington UMC. Quality and diverse worship and music, acts of mercy and deeds of justice, growth, membership diversity, Christian education for all ages, improved communications, intergenerational activities, meaningful and fun-filled times, financial stability and a streamlined internal organization became goals for the next five years. (Be sure and read more about the results of the *Future Search Weekend* on pp. 3 and 4 of this newsletter.)

Easter is God's **Yes** to Jesus and his vision! This year, Easter is God's **Yes** to Lexington UMC and our vision for the future. So let us live into the future remembering that we are Easter people. Life, not defeat; joy, not sorrow; hope, not despair will have the final say!

Alleluia!



Rev. Susan

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April Worship 2005

April 3

Second Sunday of Easter Service of Word and Table

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Rev. Sharon Dunbar-Link will be the guest preacher and will celebrate Holy Communion. Sharon is a former Pastoral Intern at LUMC and currently has her charge conference membership at Holy Trinity UMC in Danvers. She will reflect on scripture lessons from John 20: 19-31.

Her sermon title is *Thomas Sunday* and the theme is that for centuries Thomas has been labeled the “doubter.” Yet, while the other disciples had the benefit of seeing the physical manifestation of the Risen Christ, Thomas has been the one remembered for his “I’ll believe it when I see it” perspective. What can we learn from Thomas? Is it so bad to be a doubting Thomas? Thomas Sunday is a time to reflect on how possibility can overcome the limits of reality.

April 10

Third Sunday of Easter

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Using the lectionary readings from Psalm 116: 1 - 4, 12 - 19 and the beautiful resurrection story where Jesus appears to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24: 13 - 35, Rev. Susan will preach on *Thin Places with Jesus*.

April 17

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 Communion in the Library
9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Using the lectionary readings from Psalm 23 and John 10: 1-10, Hee Seob Sohng, a member of St. John’s Korean UMC and an affiliate member of Lexington UMC and a candidate for ministry in the United Methodist Church, will be the guest preacher. Rev. Susan will share the importance of our relationship with Hee Seob Sohng as he seeks our endorsement for his ordination process.

Rev. Susan in Los Angeles March 30 - April 3

Rev. Susan will be in Los Angeles at the MFSA and Reconciling Ministries sponsored *Voices of Faith* gathering from Wednesday, March 30 through Sunday, April 3. Rev. John Mueller is on call to respond to any pastoral emergencies. He may be reached at 781-646-8679.

April 24

Fifth Sunday of Easter Earth Day Celebration and Native American Awareness Sunday

Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection

8:30 Blessing of the Animals

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

The annual *Blessing of the Animals* gathering of God’s creatures will take place on the front steps of the church. Rev. Susan will bless the animals. All creatures great and small are welcome!

Using selected verses from Psalm 31, the lectionary psalm for this Fifth Sunday of Easter, Rev. Susan will reflect on this psalm as if it is spoken to us by God’s broken and despairing creation. That which God created and called “Good” has been violated by the “dominion” of humankind. What do our Native American sisters and brothers have to teach us from their “earth-keeping” traditions? A special offering will be taken for Native American ministries in the United Methodist Church.

St. Luke Passion Recordings Available

CDs and DVDs of Dan Roihl’s masterful work, the *St. Luke Passion*, as performed by our own Senior Choir last Palm Sunday, are now ready! It is beautiful and emotionally moving—a recording to be treasured. The DVD includes video. Regular prices are: \$6 for the CD; \$10 for the DVD; \$15 for both. If you want your order mailed, add \$3 for packing and postage. Special note for audiophiles: the DVD soundtrack is mastered with 96-kHz/24-bit sampling. There are two editions of the CD - one for home use, and one for noisy locations like a car. Discs include a booklet with all the words.



“Emotionally
Moving”



“Truly
Beautiful”



“Tears of Joy
and Awe”

Creating Lexington UMC'S Future

Each month this page will provide updates on the process and progress of *Creating LUMC's Future* ~ Watch for announcements of important all church gatherings!

Upcoming Events

April 10, 3:00-5:00 pm: All Church Meeting

Final report from *Creating LUMC's Future* Coordinating Team

During the weekend of March 4 – 6 nearly 50 members of the LUMC community met at New England Deaconess Home in Concord for our Future Search weekend for the purpose of *Creating LUMC's Future*. Through an intensive weekend, we arrived at 12 goals dealing with where we would like to be five years from now in the year 2010.

The work of the Future Search process was to find the “common ground” or areas on which all agreed. All other ideas were listed as “either “how to’s” or “undecided.”

Each of these goals will be taken up by 2010 *Task Forces* to explore and study. We hope you will join any one that interests you.

LUMC Common Ground for the Future: Creating Our Vision for LUMC 2010

1. **Growth**

Bring in members from diverse communities to sustain them and ourselves.

2. **Outreach** (Social Justice and Good Works/Charity/Acts of Mercy)

LUMC has a strong outreach program locally and globally providing charity and promoting social justice.

3. **Communication and Public Relations**

Interactive Web program that: informs; evangelizes; communicates; shares worship elements; and extends the church.

4. **The “Fun” Cluster**

LUMC is a community in which variety is the spice of the church. Everyone is engaged in worshipping God through active participation and service in a joyful and uplifting setting.

5. **Membership Diversity**

LUMC is more diverse and we continue to be an inclusive and reconciling congregation.

6. **Finances**

Be financially strong enough to support LUMC'S infrastructure and mission.

7. **Music**

We confirm that music plays an essential role in the worship experience and that we will remain committed to a high standard of musical excellence.

8. **Children, Youth and Young Adults**

We see more children, youth and young adults in the congregation. We see these children, youth and young adults integrated into the congregation and actively involved in all programs.

9. **Intergenerational Programming**

We provide more opportunities for adults and youth, and children to work together.

10. **Methodist Weekday School and St. John's**

We recognize the Methodist Weekday School as a mission of LUMC and St. John's Korean UMC as a partner, and we will be mindful of their best interests as we determine our future.

11. **Creative Traditional, Contemporary Worship**

We combine traditional and evolving styles of worship, music and visual arts.

12. **Internal Organization**

The internal structure has been reviewed and revised to better meet the needs of LUMC.

An All Church meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in Martin Hall to assess the beginning work of these groups.

The Coordinating committee which has planned *Creating LUMC's Future* events since last September dissolved at its final meeting March 14 when it completed its task of planning and reporting on events through the Future Search weekend. It will be replaced by a Steering Committee. (See page 4 for more information.)

The Coordinating Team
*Julie Barnette, Smoki Fraser, Keith Herndon,
Andrea Laux, Bryon Lavalla, Kathy Parks,
Janis Roihl, Bill Santelmann, Rev. Susan Morrison,
and Derek Kotze and Rick Lent, consultants*

Are we being faithful to our understanding of the Gospel?

Join us in Martin Hall on Sunday, April 10 3:00pm - 5:00 pm for an update on the findings from our FutureSearch weekend

LUMC completed the FutureSearch process for envisioning what we want our church to be five years from now, and we identified several areas of common ground. We formed action groups around key trends that we need to address to reach our shared vision for LUMC in 2010. On April 10, these groups will share their findings, plans, and concerns with us.

The LUMC Coordinating Committee, who organized events and the FutureSearch process for LUMC, has disbanded. Thank you to everyone on the Coordinating Committee for your hard work: Bill Santelmann, Andrea Laux, Janis Roihl, Keith Herndon, Rev. Susan Morrison, Kathy Parks, Bryon Lavalla, Julie Barnette and Smoki Fraser. Special thanks go to the consultants who provided guidance, support, and leadership for this process: Derek Kotze and Rick Lent.

A Steering Committee has been formed to lead LUMC through the process of implementing our shared vision for LUMC in 2010. The members are: Keith Herndon, Smoki Fraser, Becky Linton, Mackie Corson, and Kathy Parks. The Steering Committee provides help, guidance, and support to the action groups, as well as keeps us moving toward our common vision for our church.

As part of its work, the Steering Committee has renamed the common ground action groups "2010 Taskforces." The 2010 Taskforces brainstorm on ideas for their visions for LUMC in 2010, which will be implemented through the existing LUMC Committee structure. The ongoing work of LUMC between now and 2010 will continue to be managed through the existing committee structure. The 2010 Taskforces and the existing committee(s) will work together: the taskforces providing new ideas, the existing committee(s) implementing those which fit into that program year. The Steering Committee will provide assistance in getting lines of communication established and keeping them open.

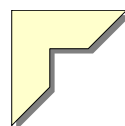
To facilitate this, each 2010 Taskforce has a contact on the Steering Committee (see the table below). These contacts will be calling the 2010 Taskforce leaders to provide information on preparing for the April 10 all-church meeting, as well as ongoing assistance in leading their taskforce.

All 2010 Taskforces should plan to have at least a kickoff meeting before April 10th, and be prepared to share their plans with the church on April 10.

- Kathy Parks for the Steering Committee

Steering Committee Contacts for the 2010 Taskforces

2010 Taskforce	Steering Committee contact
Growth combined with Membership Diversity	Kathy Parks
Outreach	Mackie Corson
Communication	Kathy Parks
Fun Cluster	Becky Linton
Finance	Keith Herndon
Music	Becky Linton
Children/Youth/Young Adult combined with Intergenerational Programming	Smoki Fraser
Methodist Weekday School/St. John's UMC	Smoki Fraser
Worship	Keith Herndon
Internal Organization	Mackie Corson



Finance Corner

Total 2005 receipts to LUMC through 2/28/05:
\$ 40,032

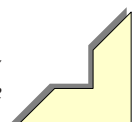
Total 2005 expenditures by LUMC through 2/28/05:
\$ 38,200

Total 2005 expenditures budgeted through 2/28/05:
\$ 43,042

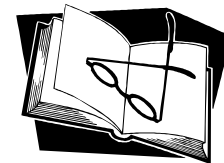
Here are the numbers through February. As usual at this time of year, we continue to remain on track.

Thanks to all,

*-Keith Herndon
Chair, Finance Committee*



Adult Study Opportunities



Sunday Morning 11th Hour

Elaine Hagopian will be our guest presenter on **April 3** at the 11th Hour. An expert on the current Palestinian/Israeli situation, she will share an update on the Middle East situation.

Having just returned from the *Voices of Faith* progressive United Methodist gathering in Los Angeles, Rev. Susan will share an update on the various progressive United Methodist groups including Church within a Church and the Reconciling Ministries Network at the 11th Hour on **April 10**.

STRIVERS

Adult Theology Study Begins April 17

All are welcome to continue exploring with past members of the *Strivers* group the nature of God and religious truth through the study of books and papers by contemporary theologians. Our series this spring will look at how the Holy Spirit or Awe becomes a part of our life and what is the responsibility of the church. We will have four sessions at the 11th Hour on Sunday beginning April 17.

We will explore and discuss essays by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and H. Richard Niebuhr. In addition, we will complete Part One of Gene Marshall's book, *The Call of the Awe*, which we have been studying. It is not necessary to have studied other chapters of the book to join in discussions related to the focus of our themes this spring.

- ♦ **April 17, 2005:** "Infinite Awe and Finite Religion"; Chapter 6, pp. 122-133 in *The Call of the Awe* by Gene W. Marshall.
- ♦ **April 24, 2005:** "Freedom" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer; a paper about the Holy Spirit (Awe).
- ♦ **May 1, 2005:** "The Authority of Authenticity"; Chapter 7, pp 134-147 in *The Call of the Awe* by Gene W. Marshall.
- ♦ **May 8, 2005:** "The Responsibility of the Church for Society" by H. Richard Niebuhr; a paper looking at the Church as social pioneer.

Sessions will be held in the library at 11:00 am on the Sundays indicated. Please contact Ken Kreutziger that you will be joining us, as materials for the sessions will be made available beforehand.

Bibles and Bagels

God at 2000

On Monday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30 am, the Bible and Bagels Study Group will continue viewing and discussing the video series *God at 2000*. Internationally known scholars from the worlds of Islam, Judaism and Christianity share their views on God. Conversation follows the viewing of the video. Prayer is always shared and good fellowship is promised.

Newcomers are always welcomed. Join this lively conversation on Monday mornings. During April, we will view and discuss video presentations by Seyyed Hossein Nasr and a conversation among all the speakers.



Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers and condolences are with Betty Hunt on the death of her sister, Lil Lyons. Betty traveled to Winnipeg for the March 29 Memorial Service. Notes can be sent to Betty at her new address: 29 County Street, Dedham, MA 02026.

Letters

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of REACH, formerly the Support Committee for Battered Women, I want to thank you for your very generous \$340.00 donation towards our vital programs and services or survivors of domestic abuse.

For over 24 years, REACH has been a leader in advancing the safety, healing, and empowerment of people experiencing domestic or relationship violence. Through the generosity and support of friends like you, we are able to offer emergency shelter, hotline service, support groups, children's programs, victim advocacy, and outreach and education programs to thousands of families.

We appreciate your help in ending the devastating cycle of violence!

Best Regards,

- Laura R. Van Zandt
Acting Executive Director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

APRIL GODLY PLAY

- April 3 Faces of the Journey:
Jesus set his Face towards Jerusalem
- April 10 Faces of the Journey:
The Face of the Cross
- April 17 Crosses
- April 24 The Twelve Apostles

This Easter Season our children will be learning about the central symbol of our Christian faith—the cross—and our twelve role models of discipleship—the Apostles. The Easter Season is the perfect time to give your child the gift of Godly Play!

Youth News

Do you enjoy a good battle between good and evil? Then, get ready! This month we will be engaging in a Faith in Film Series on *The Lord of the Rings*! Come join us as we journey through middle-earth Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the library.

NQMA News

(Not Quite Middle Aged)

The NQMA are meeting this April on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 pm in the library. We will be returning to the subject of last year's annual retreat - *Living in the Question* by M. Basil Pennington. Come join us as we dig deeper into our experience of daily life! Questions? Contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com.

Book Club Reading *The Kite Runner*

The Book Club will meet on April 4 at 7:30 pm at the home of Nicole Herman (28 Tyler Road) to discuss *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. For directions, call Nicole Herman (781-861-8068).

REACHING OUT. . .

NICARAGUA TRIP: POSITIVE RESULTS

On its recent trip to La Borgoña, the delegation from LUMC had the opportunity to visit with an attorney at his new office in Tecuntepe. He was quite professional and proud of his newly acquired profession. He is a short, intelligent, handsome individual, who makes an excellent first impression.

But even more impressive about this man was the fact that he is the first professional graduate of the LUMC scholarship program from La Borgoña. He is a married father of two children who studied Law while teaching at the Mana school in La Borgoña for many years.

Enrique Madrigal met with many previous LUMC delegations to express thanks for the scholarship and to express how difficult it was financially for him to support his family and attend to his studies. It was a long road for him requiring dedication and self-discipline; and now his professional goal is achieved. In fact, now he is honoring his agreement to serve his community once he has established himself.

He carries out numerous important tasks for La Borgoña, critical to its very survival. While there will soon be other students in La Borgoña graduating and giving back to the community, Enrique is special. Because he is the first, he is the one to whom LUMC can remember as the student who fulfilled the commitment of LUMC to provide educational opportunity for youth in an impoverished land. Enrique's success is a sweet fulfillment of the hope and faith of our own community.

By Jay Morrison

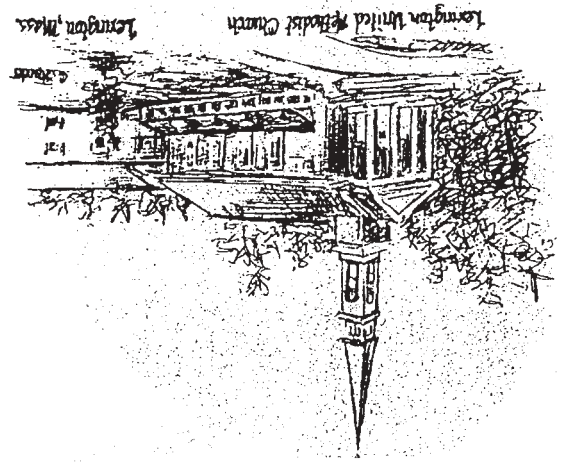
For the Outreach Committee by Bill Santelmann

Walk for Hunger Sunday, May 1

Join Project Bread's Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 1. Enjoy a festive day walking through Boston and the surrounding neighborhoods while you help our hungry neighbors in Massachusetts. Your pledges will support 400 food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks, and food salvage programs in 132 communities across the state. For more information, call 617-723-5000 or visit www.projectbread.org.

April 2005 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Rev. Susan travels to Los Angeles for Voices of Faith gathering						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Savings Time Begins						
Second Sunday of Easter Service of Word and Table	10:00 am Bible and Bagels	7:30 pm Not Quite Middle Agers	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service </div> 7:00 MWS Committee 7:30 pm Worship Committee	Noon Lexington Interfaith Clergy Assoc.		
8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 3:00-5:00 pm No Place for Hate (Cary library) 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries						
Rev. Susan returns from Los Angeles						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Third Sunday of Easter						
8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 3:00 pm Future Search Follow-up All Church Meeting 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	10:00 am Bible and Bagels	10:00 – 3:00 pm Metro Boston District Committee on Ministry 7:30 pm Christian Ed. Committee Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service </div> 7:30 pm Finance Mtg. 8:00 pm Ad. Council			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Fourth Sunday of Easter	May Newsletter Deadline Patriot's Day					
8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Communion in the Library 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Lay Leadership Committee 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries		7:30 pm Not Quite Middle Agers	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service </div>		12:30 pm Newsletter Collation	9:00 – 11:00 Lexington Food Pantry 8:00 – 5:30 pm Metro Boston District Leadership School (Wakefield)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fifth Sunday of Easter Earth Day Celebration Native American Awareness						
8:30 am Blessing of the Animals 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px;">Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection</div>	10:00 am Bible and Bagels 1:00 pm Respecting Differences 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting (Santelmanns')	7:30 pm Corporation Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service </div> 7:30 pm SPRC Mtg.			



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lexington, MA 02421-6718
2600 Massachusetts Avenue
an inclusive and reconciling congregation
LEXINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Sunday Program

- 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care
- 9:30 am Worship; *Godly Play* (N - Gr. 4)
Youth Study (Gr. 5 - 8)
- 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall
- 11:00 am Adult Study
- 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

April 2005 Newsletter

Rev. Susan J. Morrison, Pastor

Andrea Laux, Christian Education Director
Pastoral Intern

Daniel Roihl, Music Director/Organist

David Babbidge, Sexton

Allyson Printz, Office Administrator

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**All Church Meeting
Future Search Follow-Up
Sunday, April 10
3:00 - 5:00 pm**