

# The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

## Newsletter

December 2003

Vol. 51, No. 11

### From the Pastor's Study...

#### Advent - A Time of Waiting

My understanding of the meaning of *waiting* has evolved over time. Oh, Advent has always been a time of waiting, but for what I am waiting has changed. As a child, I loved marking Advent time by opening the doors on an Advent calendar. Each door brought me closer to Christmas. And of course, I was waiting for Santa and the presents under the tree.

Years later, as a young married woman, I found myself "with child" waiting for the birth of a child. I sensed a relationship with my kinswoman, Mary, and I understood about waiting for birth and new life.

In seminary, I learned about the eschaton, Christ's second coming and the arrival of the fullness of God. I became aware of all that needed to be changed and transformed. Issues of justice called out to me and Advent became a time to ponder my own partnership with God and how I might birth hope in a despairing world.

Now as a seasoned, mature person (Can you think of a kinder way of describing the aging process?!), I find Advent to be a time of "active waiting." I realize how much God depends on me and on you for bringing the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love to others and to all creation. It is a time of waiting again for the birth of the Word made Flesh, whose life and unconditional love inspire and challenge and comfort us always.

Advent used to be a time of waiting for something for me. Now Advent is a time of actively waiting on others. And the Gift is not under the tree. The Gift is a Savior, God's precious gift to each of us and for the salvation of the whole world.

May you be generous with your gifts of hope, peace, joy and love this Advent. God is waiting on you!

With Advent anticipation,

*Rev. Susan*

Rev. Susan J. Morrison



#### A Prayer

*Holy and gracious God,  
the season of Advent is so important to me:  
And it's not all about me!  
What I wait for each year  
is your coming,  
your love born again, as if never before.*

*Remind me in my waiting  
that Advent is not just for individuals,  
it is for the whole world and everything in it,  
for all peoples and nations,  
for justice with peace,  
and for enough care of all creation to make the hills sing with joy.*

*Come, Christ Jesus, come. Amen.*

*(inspired by the Iona Community)*

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# Advent and Christmas Worship 2003

## November 30 First Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am Praise Music  
9:30 am Worship and *Godly Play*
- Lighting of the Candle of Hope
  - Lessons from Psalm 25:1 - 10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9 - 13 and Luke 21:25 - 36
  - Sermon Topic: *Advent - A Time of Waiting*

Pinkham's Variations on *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* will frame the service. John Kramer will play these variations on the organ.

## December 7 Second Sunday of Advent Service of Word and Table

- 9:15 am Praise Music  
9:30 am Worship and *Godly Play*
- Advent Communion - A Service of Word and Table
  - Lighting of the Candle of Peace
  - Lessons from Malachi 3:1 - 4; Luke 3:1 - 18
  - Sermon Topic: *John the Baptist*

Pastor George Walters-Sleyon will portray John and bring the Gospel message.

## December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am Praise Music  
9:30 am Christmas Pageant
- Lighting of the Candle of Love

Children and Youth will share this year's Christmas Pageant, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Brunch, hosted by the Christian Education Committee, follows our worship celebration. Groups will go Christmas carolling and visit some of our home bound members following the Christmas brunch.

## December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am Praise Music  
9:30 am Worship and *Godly Play*
- Lighting of the Candle of Love
  - A scene depicting Mary's visit with Elizabeth, written by Jane Hogan, will be presented to illumine the Scripture lessons from Micah 5:2 - 5a and Luke 1:39 - 55
  - *Singing Our Magnificat*, Rev. Susan preaching.

**Worship Goal:**  **100 adults and children in worship each Sunday**

**November Worship Attendance**

Nov. 2: 84    Nov. 9: 88    Nov. 16: 90

**MAKE WORSHIP A PRIORITY OF YOUR WEEK.**

## December 24 Christmas Eve

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

This will be our traditional service of carols, candles, music and the reading of the Christmas narrative through scripture. The Senior Choir will share several Christmas anthems and Rev. Susan will tell a Christmas story.

## December 28 First Sunday after Christmas

- 9:15 am Praise Music  
9:30 am Worship and *Godly Play*

Lectionary readings from Psalm 148, Colossian 3:12 - 17 and Luke 2:4 - 52 will inform Rev. Susan's sermon *Looking for Jesus*.

## Children's Christmas Pageant December 14 - 9:30 am

This year's Children's Christmas Pageant, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, will be held during the service on Sunday, December 14. The Children's Choir will delight us with holiday solos, skits, and songs, and the Senior Choir and the congregation will join in. Brunch will be served immediately following the church service.

## Children's Choir Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

November 30            10:30-11:00

December 7            10:30-11:00

(immediately following Worship)

December 13 (Saturday) 12:30 to 2:00

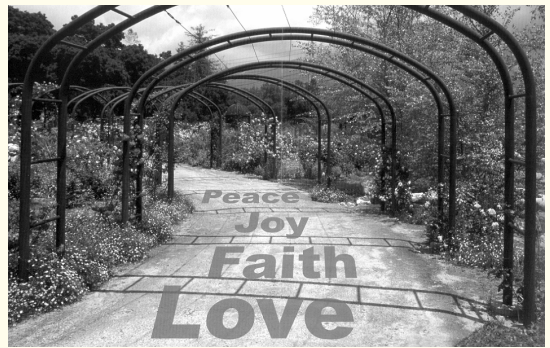
## Sing with the Choir on Christmas Eve!

If you've always wanted to sing with the adult choir but just can't make a regular commitment, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! The choir is seeking to expand its ranks for the Christmas Eve service. Any and all with strong voices or just strong spirits are invited to join us for some fantastic music making on this most joyful occasion, including many of your favorite carols and seasonal anthems. Our first rehearsal for this service will be Saturday evening, December 6 (Faheys' home) - followed immediately by the annual CHOIR PARTY! There will also be a dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 21 from 12 noon to 2:00 pm. If you're interested or just curious, please contact Dan Roihl at (203)777-9632 or droihl@yahoo.com



## 2003 Stewardship Mid-Campaign Update

As the *December Newsletter* is being printed, we are right in the middle of our 2003 stewardship campaign. In the month of November, we have benefited from many stirring aids as we each contemplate our own journey down the *Path With a View*. Jane Hogan, Audrey Hale, and Dale Brunelle provided thought provoking Ministry Moments, and Reverend Susan delivered inspirational sermons. We also came together as a Church family on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> for an enjoyable, moving, and tasty potluck dinner to celebrate Stewardship Sunday as well as the conclusion of the *Covenant Group* studies. The pledges have begun rolling and early indications are encouraging. As the contributions grow to their final numbers in the coming weeks, we will provide further updates regarding the success of the 2003 campaign on Sundays and in the *January 2004 Newsletter*.



Grace and Peace,

Dale Brunelle, Stewardship Chair

Susan Morrison, Pastor

*"You have made known to me the Path of Life." Psalm 16:11*



### Christmas Open House at the Morrissions' home

Sunday, December 14

2:00 - 5:00 pm



The Morrissions invite you to a Christmas Open House at their home in Marblehead on Sunday afternoon, December 14. Mulled cider, Christmas cookies and light refreshments will be served. Directions to 37 Seaview Ave. are available in the church office or during Fellowship Time on Sunday. Carpooling is encouraged. Please sign up on the list provided during Fellowship Time if you are willing to drive or if you would like a ride to the Morrissions' home.



### Christmas Card Bulletin Board

Our annual Christmas Card Bulletin Board will be in place in Martin Hall on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup>, to benefit both Roxbury Food Cupboard and Lexington Food Pantry, as the need is great for both of these organizations.

Instead of buying and mailing Christmas cards to friends within our congregation, would you again consider sending only one Christmas card to all in our church family? If so, please attach your Christmas card to the green felt tree on the Bulletin Board in Martin Hall and place the money saved (or check) in one of the envelopes provided beside

the tree. Either place the envelope in the Sunday collection marked "Christmas Card Bulletin Board" or give it to Betty Lehr.

The money you contribute will be divided equally between these two organizations to feed the hungry.

- Betty Lehr



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## ADVENT GODLY PLAY

**NOVEMBER 30** LIGHT OF THE PROPHETS  
**DECEMBER 7** LIGHT OF MARY AND JOSEPH  
**DECEMBER 14** CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (NO GP)  
**DECEMBER 21** ADVENT STUDY  
**DECEMBER 28** CHRISTMAS

This Advent, the children will prepare for the coming of the Christ child with stories, play, and wondering in *Godly Play*. The Christmas Season is wonderful time to introduce your child to the gift of *Godly Play*. Come join us as we meet weekly with Jesus!

## A FAMILY ADVENT

Are you looking for ways to bring your family closer this Advent and Holiday Season? There are many simple, yet, effective new traditions you can start with your family this year. At the beginning of Advent cut some fresh evergreen and spend a Sunday afternoon making an Advent wreath together as a family. Decorate with ribbon and candles and then have your own lighting ceremony each Sunday of Advent with the Gospel Lesson for the week and a simple prayer. Or plan a time each day together to open your Advent Calendar from LUMC. You can also Adopt-a-Family through local non-profit agencies, attempting to pick a family with children of similar ages and genders to your family. Plan a fun day of shopping together as a family and allow the children to shop for their matching Adopt-a-Family member. These fun, simple activities can help to gain perspective, get everyone involved, spark conversation, and bring your family closer together this Advent Season.

## OUR NEW CHILD!

As we were preparing to send Surekha a Christmas Package this year, we received new correspondence from World's Children, Inc. This year, Surekha graduated from the Methodist Girls' Home in Moinabad, India and we have been asked to sponsor a new child. Her name is G. Sunitha Yadhiah. She is in the third grade, likes to sing, and is at the same Methodist Girls' Home as Surekha. We are excited to begin a new sponsorship! We are also very pleased that with our support over the past eight years, Surekha was able to complete her education and grow up in a safe, warm environment. Thank you for all of your gifts this year and for your understanding and flexibility with this joyful news!

## YOUTH NEWS!

## AN ADVENT OF SERVICE AND STUDY

This Advent Season, the Middle School and High School Sunday School class will begin meeting during worship at 9:30 am in the Library. The youth will be preparing Christmas Cards for our friends in Nicaragua and Palestine and participating in the study *Consumerism: Through the Eye of a Needle* from Pax Christi USA. This Advent series will be facilitated by Jay Morrison.

\*A special thank you to Leila Beck for translating our Christmas wishes into Arabic.



## YOUTH LOCK-IN

Come join us for a night of fun, fellowship and NO SLEEP as we lock the door and throw away the key—

**Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm -**

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

Activities will include dinner, movies, games, and breakfast the next morning. Youth are asked to bring warm clothes, overnight supplies (sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, etc.) and a snack to share. The youth will be joined by several youth leaders and chaperones. Bring a friend, your favorite movie and/or video game, and come stay up all night at the **Youth Lock-IN!**

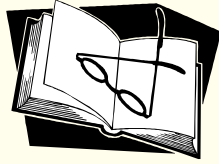
Contact Andrea Laux with any questions or comments at [lauxaj@yahoo.com](mailto:lauxaj@yahoo.com).



## Adult Study Opportunities

### Sunday Mornings 11<sup>th</sup> Hour

During Advent, one of the 11th Hour offerings will be a study of Arthur Simon's book, *How Much is Enough?* This powerful, engaging work helps us put into context concepts like needs and wants, legitimate personal "provision," compassion and consumerism and the consequences of our choices. Because each person's situation is different, the book helps us sort through the issues yet leaves the decision to each individual; there is no single answer. Please join us.



### Sermon Talkback/Bible Study Returns

As a result of the Covenant Groups, there has been a call for a spiritually oriented Bible study on Sunday mornings. So...the Sermon Talkback and Bible Study are back! Those who wish to reflect on Sunday's message and scripture are welcome to gather in the Pastor's study from 11:00 am - noon.

### Bible and Bagels Study Isaiah

It's not too late to join the Advent Bible and Bagel's study on the book of Isaiah. This prophetic book of the Bible addresses us, today, as poignantly as it addressed the people of ancient Judah. Join the group for study, prayer and good fellowship on Monday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 am in the library.

### Suggestions for Winter Reading

At a recent 11th Hour Study, members shared their all time favorite books that inspire them. Here is a list of some of these books. They might make good winter reading, especially if the Farmer's Almanac's prediction of a stormy winter is realized!

*The Hound of Heaven* (Francis Thompson); *The Brothers Karamazov* (Fyodor Dostoevsky); *Night* (Elie Wiesel); *As a Driven Leaf* (Milton Steinberg); *In Search of Belief* (Joan Chittister); *The Battle for God* (Karen Armstrong); *Pilgrim's Progress* (John Bunyan); *Harry Potter series* (J.K. Rowling); *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* (Richard Bach); *Bel Canto* (Ann Patchett); *Gift from the Sea* (Anne Morrow Lindbergh); *Siddhartha* (Herman Hesse); *Life of Pi* (Yann Martel); *Hatchet* (Gary Paulsen); *Truman and John Adams* (David McCullough); *The House on Mango Street* (Sandra Cisneros); *Franny and Zooey* (JD Salinger); *The Secret Life of Bees* (Sue Monk Kidd); *The Distant Mirror* (Barbara Tuchman); *Constantine's Sword* (James Carroll); *St Augustine's Confessions*.

## 2004 Upper Room Disciplines Available in Advent

The *Upper Room Disciplines* is found in many of our households and used daily many of us. Scripture, commentary and prayer are contained on each page. The daily Bible readings follow the cycle of lectionary readings; therefore, the texts studied are the same as the readings for the coming Sunday.

Copies of the *2004 Upper Room Disciplines* will be on sale during the December Sundays of Advent in Martin Hall for \$9.00. You are encouraged to pick up a copy for yourself and your household. The book would also make a meaningful Christmas gift for a friend. This daily devotional guide will encourage you into a daily habit of scriptural readings and prayer, for it is in daily practice that our faith becomes relevant and alive.

## January Book Club

LUMC's Book Club will meet on Monday, January, 19 at 7:30 pm (meeting place TBD). The group will read *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. Everyone is welcome! The following review describes the book:

Part melodrama and part parable, Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* weaves together three stories, all told about the same man: 83-year-old Eddie, the head maintenance person at Ruby Point Amusement Park. As the novel opens, readers are told that Eddie, unsuspecting, is only minutes away from death as he goes about his typical business at the park. Albom then traces Eddie's world through his tragic final moments, his funeral, and the ensuing days as friends clean out his apartment and adjust to life without him. In alternating sections, Albom flashes back to Eddie's birthdays, telling his life story as a kind of progress report over candles and cake each year. And in the third and last thread of the novel, Albom follows Eddie into heaven where the maintenance man sequentially encounters five pivotal figures from his life (a la *A Christmas Carol*). Each person has been waiting for him in heaven, and, as Albom reveals, each life (and death) was woven into Eddie's own in ways he never suspected. Each soul has a story to tell, a secret to reveal, and a lesson to share. Through them Eddie understands the meaning of his own life even as his arrival brings closure to theirs.

Albom takes a big risk with the novel; such a story can easily veer into the saccharine and preachy, and this one does in moments. But, for the most part, Albom's telling remains poignant and is occasionally profound. Even with its flaws, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a small, pure, and simple book that will find good company on a shelf next to *It's A Wonderful Life*.

—Patrick O'Kelley

## New Members Received November 16, 2003

We are pleased to have welcomed three new members to the Lexington United Methodist Church family on Sunday, November 16.

**Julie Munro** moved to Massachusetts two and a half years ago, and currently resides in Arlington. She is transferring from Epworth UMC in Berkeley, California. After visiting seven other churches in the area, Julie found LUMC to be most warm, welcoming, and "like home." Also, having left three nieces and nephews behind in California, Julie enjoys interacting with the children at LUMC.

During the week, Julie works in child welfare as a program specialist with the US Department of Health & Human Services. She is also currently working toward a PhD in Social Policy at Brandeis University. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, cooking, and salsa dancing (a recently acquired skill).

**Jean Roth and Clinton Fawcett** reside in Waltham, where they have lived for one and a half years. They are transferring from St. Matthew's UMC in Acton, Massachusetts. For Jean and Clint, the fact that LUMC is a reconciling congregation was a major factor in deciding to join the church.

Jean works as a data manager for the National Bureau of Economic Research, and Clint serves as technical staff at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. The couple has many interests outside of work. Clint enjoys playing the guitar, composing computer music, and playing computer games. Jean enjoys reading both fiction and nonfiction, and they both love to cook.

- Alice Cho Sadeghian



Julie Munro, Rev. Susan, Jean Roth and Clinton Fawcett

## An Evening of Celebration!

What an evening we had November 15 as we celebrated being church with a potluck supper! Upon each green tablecloth a path wended its way. Miniature trees, boulders, bushes, park benches and even trash cans lined the path. It was a wonderful visual of our Stewardship theme of the *Path with a View*.

Pastor George led us in hymns from *The Faith We Sing* as over 50 of us gathered. We were led in prayer by Bob Minor who noted that even as people starve in the world, many of our farmers are paid not to grow food.

Dinner was the usual scrumptious buffet of attractive salads, inviting main dishes, delicious breads and yummy desserts. Gourmets (as well as gourmands) should never miss a supper cooked by the men and women of LUMC! Diners at each of the tables spent time sharing what our participation in the Covenant Groups had meant. Suggestions were made about what we wanted to carry into the future.

In the Sanctuary, Pastor George told of his inspiration for the original musical selections he sang. Videos for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration were shown. Some photos were taken long before that anniversary, and a lot of changes were noted! As Rev. Susan gave her benediction, she reminded us that LUMC is ever changing as it remains the same...a vibrant, healthy church that celebrates its life while it also looks outward to bring peace with justice to the world.

Thank you to the Hospitality, Stewardship and Worship Committees for their planning and work, and to all who had a part in making the evening such a great success.

- Jane Hogan

## 2003 Annual Reports due by January 15, 2004

Committee chairpersons and church leaders are asked to send their 2003 Annual Reports to the church office by January 15, 2004. The preferred method to relay Word documents by email (office@lexumc.org).

## Charge Conferences Scheduled Wednesday, December 10, 8:00 pm

Our regular Administrative Council meeting on December 8 will become a Charge Conference. Reports from Staff Parish, Parsonage and Finance Committees will be received and ministries from this past year highlighted. The pastor's compensation package for 2004 will be presented for approval.

## Wednesday, January 14, 2004, 8:00 pm

A portion of our Administrative Council meeting will become a Charge Conference to approve our 2004 budget.

## REACHING OUT...

### TURN THIS WORLD RIGHT SIDE UP!

In the time it takes to read this article, 25 children will have died from starvation, malnutrition or preventable disease. Even when hunger doesn't kill, it often causes blindness, deformities, and brain damage. Find the program which has the actions and methods you prefer and then... support it! A newly dug well, political, legislative advocacy, seeds and a shovel, whatever is the way you want to fight hunger...please, find it -- do it.

We have the means, the resources, and the capacity to turn this world Not upside-down but Right Side up. Give gifts in the names of people you love and send them cards showing them they are not part of the problem but through their gift, part of the solution. Give fair-traded coffee, tea, and cocoa as Christmas gifts and invite people to enjoy the sweet taste of poverty being beaten. Continue your magnificent support of the pantries for the 400,000 people in eastern Massachusetts who are hungry and plan to do some of your shopping at our annual Alternative Christmas Fair on December 7.

In your name, the Outreach Committee has made 2003 contributions to the following groups:

- Aids Interfaith Ministry
- Bread for the World
- Cambridge Welcoming Ministries
- Children's Defense Fund
- Christian Peacemaker Team
- Infact
- Methodist Federation for Social Action
- Respecting Differences
- World Vision.

Thank you for making this possible.

Bob and Linda Miner

### NICARAGUA NOTES BY LINDA RINGS

As the seasons of thankfulness and giving are rapidly descending upon us, I am reminded of some letters from Nicaragua that Marnie received. They fit well with this time of year as they are letters of thankfulness for the opportunity you give them through your contributions to the work we do in La Borgoña. The letters speak of the chance to get an education that would not be available without the generosity of this congregation. We are creating a new society that will have far reaching implications for years to come. We cannot begin to see what the effects of all our endeavors will have, but you need to know that your giving is deeply appreciated. If you read Spanish, we would be happy to share the letters with you directly. However, they are being

translated and I hope to publish the text of some in the next newsletter.

Every penny you give for Nicaragua goes to Nicaragua. People go to high school, to college, learn to sew, learn to work on the computer, get to see the doctor and get medicine - all because of this congregation!! If you haven't been able to donate in the past, or are new to our church, I encourage you to join in this wonderful work. In this season, and indeed, in every season, it is truly more blessed to give than to receive.

### NEW GENEVA ACCORD FOR ISRAEL/PALESTINE PEACE

Last month, leading Israelis, led by Yossi Beilin (former Minister of Justice) and Amram Mitzna (the Labor Party candidate for Prime Minister), signed an accord with Yasser Abed Rabbo, a former minister of the Palestinian Authority acting with the full approval of the Palestinian Authority. This agreement specifies a territorial solution that brings Israel back to the pre-1967 borders, with minor border modifications, and specifies what those modifications are. It provides funds to compensate Palestinian refugees who will be resettled in the new Palestinian state. It moves the settlers back into Israel. It provides for security for both sides and a new plan for full cooperation on security, water, and many other areas. No longer will anyone have grounds to say, "Agreement is impossible—the two sides are too far apart" or "The Palestinians are unwilling to compromise." You can read the full terms of the Geneva Accord at [www.tikkun.org](http://www.tikkun.org). It is amazingly precise in spelling out every detail of the peace accord.

There's only one problem. Ariel Sharon doesn't support it, and George Bush and Congress let Sharon do whatever he wants, occasionally making a whimper of disagreement while sending him financial support and political backing at the U.N.

From Rabbi Michael Lerner,  
The Tikkun Community

For the Outreach Committee by Bill Santelmann

## *Amnesty International Letter Writing Campaign*

Our annual Advent letter writing campaign for Amnesty International will be held during our Fellowship Time on Sunday, December 14 (10:30 - 11:00 am). Amnesty International representative Bill Harris will assist us in writing about concerns in Vietnam, Syria, Russia and Guatemala.

# Advent Material Aid Collection for Nicaragua

December 14 and 21

We continue to sharpen the focus of the items that are most needed by our friends in Nicaragua.

We invite you to make any of the following contributions to our Advent collection on December 14 and 21. Material aid is one way we can make a significant difference to those who live in poverty.

## Health

- Antibiotic ointment
- Band-aids
- Cotton balls
- Headache and cold remedies
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Vitamins (children and adult)

## School Supplies

- Crayons
- Magic markers
- Notebooks
- Pens (especially "click" pens)
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpeners

## Sewing supplies

- Buttons
- Metric measuring tape
- Needles
- Pinking sheers
- Pins
- Sewing scissors
- Thread

## Clothing

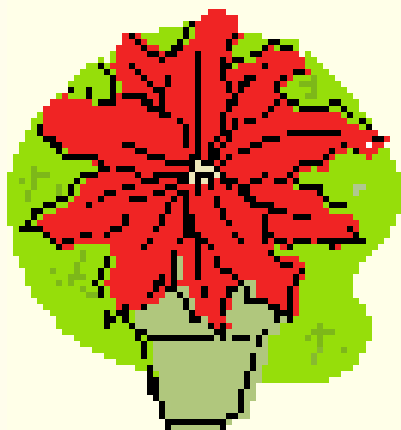
(new or like new)

- Shirts/blouses
- Shoes/sneakers
- Slacks/jeans
- Socks
- Underwear



If it is easier for you to make a donation, we will use that money to purchase the needed supplies. Your check can be made out to LUMC-Nicaragua and placed in the offering plate.

- Linda Rings



# NQMA News

(Not Quite Middle Aged)



## NotQuiteMiddleAged Christmas Party!

Tuesday, December 16, 2003

7:30 PM

(location TBD)

This will be a night of joy and celebration as the NQMA share in food and fellowship to ring in the Holiday Season! All are WELCOME! Questions? Contact Andrea ([lauxaj@yahoo.com](mailto:lauxaj@yahoo.com)).



Come warm up this winter in a lively discussion of Contemporary Theologians with the NotQuite-MiddleAgeds...

This session will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 7:30 – 9:00 PM in the Library starting Tuesday, January 20, 2004. The study will use selections from the book *Contemporary Theologians* by Fr. James Bacik. Questions? Contact Andrea ([lauxaj@yahoo.com](mailto:lauxaj@yahoo.com)).

New members are *always* WELCOME!

Deadline to order Poinsettias:  
Tuesday, December 9  
See page 10 for order form.



## The Web Watch

Type these “URL” addresses into your Internet Explorer to see information pertaining to our LUMC theme “Peace With Justice” that you may not see elsewhere. Your comments, suggestions, and web contributions are welcome and solicited. Please leave them in the Outreach box near the church office or send to Bill Santelmann at n1au@rcn.com. Thank you!

- [http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/03.09/0923krieger\\_second-nuclear.htm](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/03.09/0923krieger_second-nuclear.htm)

*“The world has entered a new nuclear age, a second nuclear age. The danger is rising that nuclear weapons will be used against the United States. Just as bad, the danger is rising that the United States will use nuclear weapons against others...”*  
— Jonathan Schell

- <http://www.nuclearfiles.org/>

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s Nuclear Files project is a website devoted to the history of the Nuclear Age. By providing background information, analysis and access to primary documents, this site is an educational resource exploring the political, legal and ethical challenges stemming from the continued existence of nuclear weapons.

- <http://www.fcnl.org/index.htm>

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is a Quaker lobby in the public interest, currently featuring Congressional Action, Letters and Statements, and Background and Analysis on topics of Iraq, North Korea, Nuclear Weapons, and Civil Liberties and Human Rights.

- <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/>

Use this guide to choose the cleanest and most fuel-efficient vehicle that meets your needs. Low emissions and good fuel economy are both important for the environment. This guide rates only environmental performance when the vehicle is in use.

- <http://www.truthout.org/index.htm>

This website provides links to commentaries and op-editorials from prominent newspapers and magazines on today’s important issues. Updated weekly with searchable archives.

Compiled by Bill Santelmann

## The Word for the Week on line!

As we continue in our quest to grow spiritually, the idea surfaced that it might be nice to have the opportunity to discuss the Sunday scripture lessons among ourselves during the week before it is read in church.

Our computer gurus at Lexington UMC are going to make this idea a reality. The email list will be called “LUMC Word for the week.” The scripture readings for the following Sunday will be posted early in the week and then those who wish to discuss/comment on them during the week can do so.

To subscribe to this group, send an email to LUMCWord-subscribe@yahoo.com and you will be enrolled in a unique Bible study and conversation.



- Janis Roihl

## New Email Option for your shopping pleasure

The Annual Nicaraguan Material Aid Collection will take place on December 14 and 21. “Where can I get a good deal?” you might be asking. Similarly, on the last Sunday of each month, we collect food for the Roxbury Food Pantry. The same question might apply! So, we have a solution that will help your shopping dilemma.

To help increase what you can buy with the money you set aside for these collections, a weekly newsletter will be sent to you via email with some of the best items being offered that week in local stores.

If you would like to be on this Shopping Spree list, simply send an email to OutreachSpecials-subscribe@yahoo.com. It’s as easy as that!

You may have seen the recent study that showed that, in several areas of Boston and other poor areas of Massachusetts, one-third of children don’t know where their next meal is coming from. The Red Cross of Massachusetts announced a 32% jump in the number of people coming into food pantries for groceries this year.

It’s like lighting that one little candle. One can of soup won’t go far but when we pool our resources the results can make a difference.

- Janis Roihl

## Special Interfaith Gathering Celebrates Diverse Families

Ask any Lexington school official or any religious leader how this community is changing, and they will tell you about the growing diversity in the town. People of all ages, races, nationalities and sexual orientation are adding to the mix of what makes a Lexingtonian.

Several faith organizations in town are dedicated to welcoming and celebrating the differences and commonalities within our community. These faith communities also seek, guided by a faith-based commitment to justice and the Golden Rule, to learn more about these human differences. With these goals in mind, a group of lay leaders and clergy from Hancock United Church of Christ, Temple Isaiah, Temple Emunah, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Lexington United Methodist Church, Follen Church and First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church have been working for several months to design a special interfaith service to be held on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 pm at Temple Isaiah. The public is cordially invited.

This celebration, titled "We Are Family," will consist of song, prayer and personal remarks that will lift up and raise people's awareness of the strong loving bonds that create families. The service will be inclusive of adoptive families, single parent families, families of remarriage, families with special needs children or adults, interracial families, families with gay or lesbian parents or those with gay or lesbian children, and the extended families of our faith communities, to name a few. Lay participants from several Lexington families will share their thoughts on what they celebrate about their family, and an interfaith choir, led by the First Parish No Fault Singers, will also sing.

Knowing that an interfaith gathering of this sort can be a very powerful acknowledgment of love and faith, the religious leaders of these seven Lexington churches and temples have been working to create a service of joy and affirmation for all kinds of loving families. The spectrum of what it means to be a family is wide, and so is the love that binds families together. This service will honor family love in all its guises, and will express the belief that trust, respect and love are the most important family values. It is hoped that this celebration will also help develop stronger community ties and interfaith relationships.

This special gathering will be held at Temple Isaiah at 55 Lincoln Street, Lexington on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 pm. There will be child care for the youngest children. For more information, call Hancock Church at 781-862-4220.

## Rolling Ridge Conference Center invites United Methodists and friends to an Advent Luncheon - Joy to Our World on December 5

David Clyde Morse has served as Conference Organist for many years since 1980. Now, meet the voice behind the keyboard as he presents a tapestry of seasonal music with fingers on the piano and voice in singing. His message of hope will be timely and inspirational for the days of Advent that lead to the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

### Schedule - Friday, December 5, 2003

- 10:00 - Arrival and Registration with Coffee/Tea in the beauty of the grounds and lake
- 10:30 - Greetings and Gathering Worship
- 11:00 - Musical Offering by David Clyde Morse
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 - Departure or Walk the Grounds (weather permitting!)

Rolling Ridge is pleased to offer this luncheon event, which has attracted seniors, UMW/UMM groups, musicians, and mission-minded United Methodists to gather for food and fellowship at our own Conferencing and Retreat Center. A tour of the woodland labyrinth will be provided (weather permitting). Welcome to your home by the lake!

Advanced Reservations are required. An \$8.00 registration fee includes lunch. Please mail or fax or email your registration to [thestaff@RollingRidge.org](mailto:thestaff@RollingRidge.org) by December 1, 2003. Directions to Rolling Ridge, 660 Great Pond Rd, North Andover MA 01845 available at [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org). Call 978-682-8815 for other questions.



## Worship Workshop with Pastor George Walters-Sleyon

Lexington UMC will host a worship workshop on Saturday, January 17, 2004 from 1:30 - 4:00 pm (snowdate: January 18, 3:30 - 6:00 pm). Pastor George Walters-Sleyon will facilitate the workshop and will demonstrate the importance of *Cultivating Harmony in Worship through Music and Liturgy*. A variety of musical expressions will be shared including contemporary, spiritual, classical, jazz and gospel. A \$5.00 contribution per participant will be appreciated. United Methodist Churches in the area are being invited to this event.

# Fair Trade Coffee Petition

## Submitted to UMC General Conference, 2004



A petition has just been submitted to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church being held in Pittsburgh in the spring of 2004. It calls for **all agencies of the church, local congregations and their affiliated organizations, which use coffee to purchase coffee for corporate and personal use through the fair trade partner, Equal Exchange or through another similar fair trade organization.**

The reason such a petition has become necessary is because small family farmers in developing countries are losing their livelihood to large plantations with corporate ties. Coffee originates from either large plantations that are traditionally run and owned by wealthy landowners or small operations that are primarily owned by impoverished farmers. These small farmers frequently live in isolated communities relying on middlemen to buy their coffee invariably at the lowest price possible. The way the system is set up and the farmers' inability to get a just return for their labor is essentially guaranteed and they are condemned to a life of extreme poverty. Small family farmers are being pushed into a situation where they no longer can sustain a living wage. This frequently results in loss of their farm that may have been in the family for generations and the family becoming destitute.

Our United Methodist Social Principles state that "we support measures that would reduce the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few," that "we advocate for the rights of people to possess property and to earn a living by tilling the soil;" and that "we call upon our churches to do all in their power to speak prophetically to the matters of food supply and the people who grow the food for the world" (§ 163).

Also, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) joined forces in April 2002 with Equal Exchange to launch a denomination-wide coffee program. Through this partnership, any

United Methodist church or individual buying coffee through Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program can now order coffee through UMCOR (at the Equal Exchange web site). For every case of coffee ordered, UMCOR receives approximately 5% of purchase price from Equal Exchange to be used in UMCOR's small farmer economic development programs.

**Why is a partner like Equal Exchange important?** As a fair trade organization, Equal Exchange purchases all of its coffee from small farmer cooperatives according to Fair Trade standards. These co-ops, businesses owned and governed democratically by the farmers themselves, enable their members to compete in a marketplace that would otherwise lock them out. Equal Exchange also shares risk with farmers by offering advance credit to co-ops for their coffee, often passed on to the farmer in the form of a prepayment for their coffee. This provides the farmers with funds between harvests, money for farm improvements, seedlings, and training programs as well as family expenses helping them to stay out of debt.

**Why bother?** When you buy fair trade coffee you are **causing systemic change** in the marketplace! You are bringing biblical justice into the economic community, with a share in productive power as seen in the provision of land to every family unit (Num. 26; Lev. 25). The mathematics is simple: **More coffee purchased means support for more family farmers.**

Buy coffee, tea or hot cocoa mix at the Alternative Christmas Market on Sunday, December 7.

- Ken Kreutziger



**Every  
Cup is a  
Cup of  
Justice!**

# Concerns and Celebrations

Condolences to Amy (Rogers) and David Harris on the death of their infant son, Matthew Bentley Harris (9/24/03-10/23/03) and to Jenny Rogers, his grandmother, and Tom and Cindy, Terry and Mandy Stander, his loving extended family. David and Amy Harris' address is 4 Bowles Terrace, Lincoln, MA, 01773.

Congratulations to Liz Kleiman on the birth of her fourth grandson, Wesley Nelson Kleiman (9 lb, 9 oz), born November 10, 2003 to Gary Kleiman and Kristin Nelson.

Church Family  
Christmas Carolling  
December 14, 11:00 am



January Newsletter Articles due  
Monday, December 15, 2003



Christmas Open House at the  
Morrisons' in Marblehead

Sunday, December 14

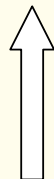
2:00 - 5:00 pm

See page 3 for details.

## Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to order flowers to decorate the altar and sanctuary for Christmas, please complete the form below and return it to the church office (or put it in the collection plate) with a check to cover your order. We will order 6" poinsettias from Wilson Farms at a cost of \$6.50 each.

Deadline for ordering is Tuesday,  
December 9, 2003



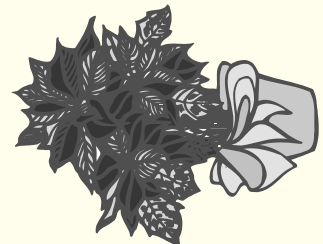
Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_





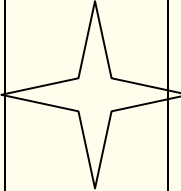
In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
at \$6.50 per plant: \_\_\_\_\_



# December 2003 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November 30</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>  8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); Youth Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study/Sermon Talk Back 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship	<b>1</b> 10:00 am Bible and Bagels	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Metro Boston dCOM	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm SPRC	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Advent Luncheon at Rolling Ridge	<b>6</b> 5:00-6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (Faheys') 6:30 pm Choir Christmas Party (Faheys')
<b>7</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Service of Word and Table</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Alternative Christmas Market</b>              8:30 – 9:15 am; 10:30 – 11:00 am           </div> 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); Youth Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study/Sermon Talk Back 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:30 pm SPRC/Staff Christmas Brunch 4:00 pm <i>We are Family</i> Service (Temple Isaiah) 5:00 pm CWM Worship	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Bible and Bagels	<b>9</b> <b>Deadline to order poinsettias</b> Noon Lexington Interfaith Clergy Assoc. 7:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg.	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Finance Mtg. 8:00 pm Ad. Council and All Church Conference	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12:30 pm Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
<b>14</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Amnesty International Letter Writing Campaign</b> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Advent Material Aid Collection for Nicaragua</b> </div> 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Communion served in the library 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Christmas Pageant 10:30 am Christmas Brunch 11:00 am Christmas Caroling 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 2:00-5:00 pm Open House at Morrisons' 5:00 pm CWM Worship	<b>15</b> <b>January Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:00 pm Newsletter Collation	<b>20</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">             7:00 pm – 9:00 am Youth Lock-In           </div>
<b>21</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Advent Material Aid Collection for Nicaragua</b> </div> 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); Youth Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Adult Study/Sermon Talk Back 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;">             Roxbury Food Pantry Collection           </div>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Lexington Food Pantry
<b>28</b> <b>First Sunday after Christmas</b> 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm CWM Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Important Dates to Save in Your Calendar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enhancing Your Worship with Music Workshop with Pastor George Walters-Sleyon: Saturday, January 17, 1:30 – 4:00 pm</b></li> </ul>		

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



## *Our Sunday Program*

- 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal  
9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care  
9:30 am Worship; *Godly Play* (N - 5)  
Youth Sunday School (Gr. 6 - 12)  
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

## **Alternative Christmas Market**

Sunday, December 7

8:30 - 9:15 am (coffee will be served!)

10:30 - 11:00 am (during Fellowship Time)

## **The Twelve Days of Christmas Christmas Pageant**

(Christmas Brunch immediately following Pageant)

Sunday, December 14, 9:30 am



## *December 2003*

## *Newsletter*



**Rev. Susan J. Morrison, Pastor**

Andrea Laux, Christian Education Director

George Walters-Sleyon, Intern/Pastoral Assistant

Daniel Roihl, Music Director

John Kramer, Organist

Nikki Katulak, Children's Choir Director

David Babbidge, Sexton

Allyson Printz, Office Administrator

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