

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

February 2004

Vol. 52, No. 2

From the Pastor's Study...

January 25, 2004

Today marks the conclusion of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A worldwide observance, this week of prayer began in the Episcopal Church in 1908 at Graymoor, in New York's Hudson Valley. The Church Unity Week was originally called the "Church Unity Octave" because it was observed every year beginning on the Feast of the Chair of Peter (at that time January 18) and ending on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25).

Each year the theme and texts for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are prepared by an international group whose members are appointed by the World Council of Churches. This year's materials were prepared by Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic Christians from Syria. The struggle for peace in the Middle East formed the backdrop of their planning with the focus on Jesus' words as recorded in the Gospel of John 14:23 - 31: "My peace I give to you...not as the world gives. Let not your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid."

God-cidentally, the Epistle lessons for January 18th and 25th have been from 1 Corinthians 12, where Paul exhorts believers in the early church to live together in peace and harmony as the body of Christ. Diversity is to be cherished. How can the body function if everyone is the same? If all were eyes? Or if all were ears? "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (12:7) and therefore we have a variety of gifts and talents to be used toward building up the body of Christ and bringing peace to the world.

I have found myself praying for our United Methodist denomination during this week of Christian Unity. It will take the compassionate, understanding Spirit of God to break down the walls that now separate us. Why can't we agree to disagree over social and theological issues and unite ourselves under the all-encompassing love of Jesus Christ? Neither side wishes to "do harm." On the contrary, everyone sees their point of view as fulfilling God's intentions. Isn't there room for all around the table?

As I anticipate my days at General Conference in Pittsburg (April 29 - May 7), I know that this past week of prayer will under gird my interactions with fellow Methodists. I want my words and deeds to come from a deep reservoir of hope that we can accept our differences and celebrate a denomination that makes room for all people. Won't you join me in that prayer during the next few months? May the Spirit of God, that makes all things possible, bring peace and justice to this particular body of Christ!

In the Spirit of Christian unity,

Rev. Susan J. Morrison



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February Worship 2004

February 1

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Service of Word and Table

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

Using lectionary readings from 1 Corinthians 13 and Luke 4:21-30, Rev. Susan will share a communion meditation on *The Gift of Love*. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

February 8

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

Here I Am, Send Me will be Rev. Susan's sermon topic using the lectionary lessons from Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; and Luke 5:1-11.

February 15

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Domestic Violence Prevention Sunday

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

Rev. Anne Marie Hunter, Executive Director of Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence, will be our preacher. Her sermon topic is *Who Touched Me? Healing and Empowerment in a Demanding World*. Her scripture texts will include Jer. 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 and Mark 5:24b-34. Following worship, she will lead an 11th Hour discussion on *Let's Talk Romance*.

February 22

Transfiguration Sunday

9:00 am Holy Communion served in the library

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

Deborah Hamilton, a member of LUMC and an exploring candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church, will be the preacher. Her lectionary texts will be from Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 and Luke 9:28-36. Food items for the Roxbury Food Pantry will be collected.

Ash Wednesday
8:00 pm Worship

February 25

Ash Wednesday

8:00 pm Worship with St. John's Korean UMC

This traditional Ash Wednesday service will include the distribution of ashes and Holy Communion. Readings will be from Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Pastor George Walters-Sleyon will preach and Rev. Susan and Rev. Kwon will officiate at communion.

February 29

First Sunday in Lent

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

Rev. Susan will begin a Lenten sermon series on *The Apostles' Creed*. Each week she will preach on the doctrines and theological statements made in this ancient Christian creed. Her series is titled *"I Believe:" Reclaiming The Apostles' Creed for the 21st Century*.

Word of the Week

On-line Opportunity

Each Sunday's scripture readings for the following Sunday are posted early in the week for discussion and comment. If you would like to subscribe to the Word of the Week discussion, give or send your email address to Janis Roihl (jroihl@rcn.com).

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

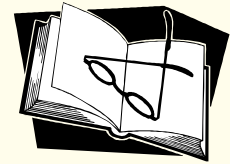
January Worship Attendance

Jan 4: 67 Jan 11: 78 Jan 18: 71 Jan 25: 79

MAKE WORSHIP A PRIORITY OF YOUR WEEK.

March Newsletter Articles due
Monday, February 23, 2004

Adult Study Opportunities



Sunday Mornings 11th Hour

Strivers Class Study

This winter's Strivers Class will continue on **February 1** and conclude on **February 8**. Ken Kreutziger is the facilitator. The book that the group has been studying is *The Call of the Awe: Rediscovering Christian Profundity in an Interreligious Era* by Gene W. Marshall.

On **February 15**, Rev. Anne Marie Hunter, Executive Director of Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence, will address the hallmarks of domestic violence. *Let's Talk Romance* is the topic of this 11th Hour presentation and conversation.

On **February 22**, the 11th Hour topic is Low Income Housing. Paul Linton will make a presentation on this topic.

Sermon Talkback/Bible Study

Each Sunday at the 11th hour, the preacher of the morning gathers with those who would like further discussion of the morning's lessons and sermon. Prayer, conversation and good fellowship are intended. The group meets in the Pastor's Study and all are welcome!

Lenten Studies

During this Lenten Season at the 11th Hour, beginning on Sunday, **February 29**, Covenant Groups will participate in a study titled *The Spirituality of Non-Violence: From Violence to Wholeness*. This study includes topics such as:

- The Faithful Non-Violence of Jesus
- Violence, Non-Violence, and Gender
- Gandhi and the Non-Violence of Soul-Force
- Cultivating Reverence for the Earth
- Nonviolent Social Change in Action: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

This study would also be a fabulous resource for any other Covenant Group that might gather during the Season of Lent. Please contact Andrea Laux (lauxaj@yahoo.com or 617-718-0711) with any questions, concerns, or interest in using this resource.

May this study truly challenge all of us to move from Violence to Wholeness!

Covenant Groups to Resume During Lent

Several of the fall Covenant Groups plan to reconvene during Lent. Newcomers are welcome! Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 25 and concludes on Holy Saturday, April 10.

During Lent on Tuesday afternoons (beginning on February 24), a group will gather at Al and Muriel Landers' home for prayer, sharing and fellowship. Members will use the book *Ashes to Easter* as a devotional guide and resource for the group gatherings.

On Thursday evenings during Lent (beginning on February 26), another Covenant Group will gather at Ken and Louise Kreutzigers' home.

On Sundays during the 11th Hour (beginning on February 29), Covenant Groups are expected to meet and share in the reading and discussion of *The Spirituality of Non-Violence: From Violence to Wholeness*.



Bible and Bagels



Throughout February, the Monday morning *Bible and Bagels* study group will gather from 10:00 - 11:30 to read and discuss scripture, and view a *Questions of Faith* video. Each week, a different topic will be presented.

- Feb. 2 *Whose Money Is It?*
- Feb. 9 *Can Faith Wipe Out Fear?*
- Feb. 16 (No class – school vacation week)
- Feb. 23 *How Do You Pray?*
- March 1 *How Can We Love Practically Anybody?*
- March 8 *What's Holiness All About?*

Video tape presenters include well known spokespersons such as John Cobb, Richard Foster, Adele Gonzales, Thomas Moore, Chaim Potok, Tex Sample, Terry Waite and Johnny Ray Youngblood.

Lively conversation follows each video presentation. Prayer, fellowship and sometimes, even bagels, can be expected! Join the group for any or all of the above topics.

Christian Education News

Godly Play

This month, the children of *Godly Play* will be learning several of the parables of Jesus. Jesus truly was a wisdom teacher and there is no better example of His wisdom than the parables of the Gospels. Let us all pray this month that the wisdom of Jesus is transferred to our children as they engage in these *Godly Play* Sessions—

February 1 The Great Pearl

February 8 The Sower

February 15 The Leaven

February 22 Lent

February 29 Lent

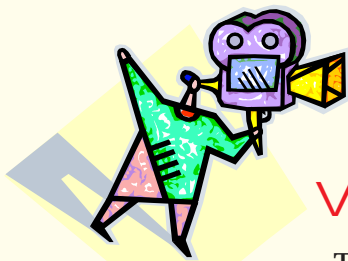
Give your children the gift of *Godly Play*!

Calling All Teachers and Would-be Teachers!

Do you enjoy spending time with children? Do you have wisdom to share or wisdom to gain? Would you like to enrich your own spiritual life through sharing in the spiritual awakening of our young people and children?

Become a volunteer teacher or classroom “helper!” There are several opportunities in *Godly Play*, Youth Studies, and Nursery teaching teams for additional participation by both the women and men of our congregation.

Please contact Andrea Laux (lauxaj@yahoo.com or 617-718-0711) or Kathy Parks (kjp684@hotmail.com) if you are interested.



Christmas Pageant Videorecording

Thanks to the hard work of Bill Santelmann and Marty Fahey, the amazing performances from the 2003 Christmas pageant have been captured for our viewing pleasure for years to come! Recordings are available on DVD or VHS and can be ordered for \$5 each. Please contact Nikki Katulak (nikki_katulak@hotmail.com or 203-641-0440) to order a copy.

Godly Play Accreditation Sessions in New England

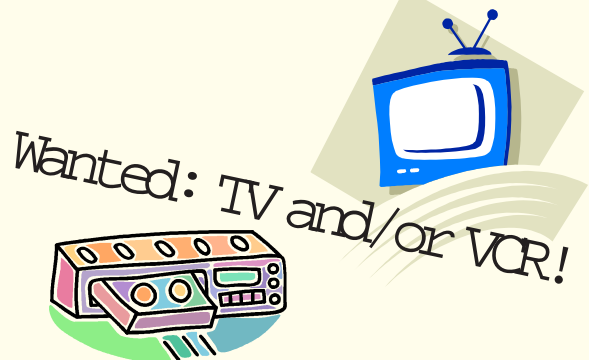
If you are interested in becoming a *Godly Play* teacher, there are several *Godly Play* teaching seminars happening in New England this year. Each year, a different region of the country is host to these sessions and 2004 features New England. Two upcoming sessions are:

- March 26-28, 2004 in Dover, NH
- April 23-25, 2004 in Stamford, CT

A contingent from the LUMC *Godly Play* teaching team is planning to go to the March session. See <http://www.godlyplay.org/calendar.php> for a full list of *Godly Play* events. Copies of the informational brochure are available in the Christian Education office. Contact Kathy Parks (kjp684@hotmail.com) if you are interested in participating in this training.

Christian Education committee seeks TV/VCR

The Christian Education Committee is in need of a TV and/or VCR. If you or your family is able to donate either an old system or funds for a new one, please contact Andrea Laux, Christian Education Director (lauxaj@yahoo.com or 617-718-0711). Thank you in advance for all of your generosity as a community of faith!



Youth News!

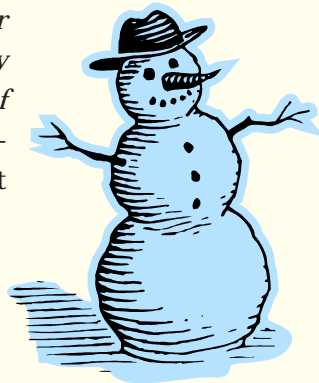


This February, the Youth Sunday School will be creating **HOT LISTS!!!** What is **HOT** and what is **NOT**! Most especially - what does this mean for us as Christians today?

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the library to see just how **HOT** you are!

Winter FUN!!!

Also, keep listening for our Winter FUN Activity brought to you courtesy of snowy weather! Questions? Contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com.



NQMA News

This Winter Season, the NotQuiteMiddleAgers are engaging in a challenging study of several Contemporary Theologians. The study is based on the book *Contemporary Theologians* by Father James Bacik and will include the following discussions:

- Week 1** Karl Rahner
Hans Urs von Balthasar
- Week 2** Karl Barth
Teilhard de Chardin
- Week 3** Rosemary Ruether
Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Week 4** Mohandas Gandhi
Gustavo Gutierrez
- Week 5** Paul Tillich
Alfred North Whitehead

NQMA meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Library. All are WELCOME, so please come and Join Us!

Questions? Contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com.

Dinner For Eight

"Let's get to know each other better," was a goal set at last year's planning meeting. The idea of *Dinner for Eight* was proposed and Membership Cultivation began to make plans.

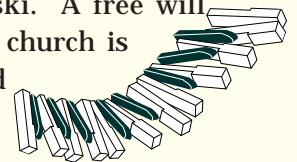


Soon, *Dinner for Eight* will provide food, fellowship and fun for over 80 folks this winter and spring. Many signed up for this event and others have received invitations from host households. Thanks to Norman and Audrey Hale, Deborah Hamilton, Tom and Helen Einstein, Jim and Jane Hogan, David and Lynda Kramer, Bob and Linda Miner, Ken and Louise Kreutziger, Bob and Linda Rings, Bill and Jean Santelmann and Jay and Susan Morrison for offering to host one of the dinners.

If you would like to be part of this all church venture, please speak to Rev. Susan and you, too, will enjoy dinner with friends - old and new - from LUMC!

John Kramer Recital at LUMC February 7

John Kramer will perform a piano recital at LUMC on Saturday, February 7 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. John will perform selections of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Rzewski. A free will offering will be accepted. The church is handicapped accessible and there is ample parking.



It's Movie Time!



All Church Fellowship

The Passion is due to be released on Ash Wednesday. As many of you have probably seen, there is much controversy about the movie directed by Mel Gibson. Join other congregation members for a Saturday matinee, March 13 to be followed by soup and conversation at the Kreutzigers' home.

Also, on March 21 at 4:00 pm, Professor Fredrickesen from the BU School of Theology will lead a discussion on *The Passion* at Hancock United Church of Christ. LUMC contributed \$100 to Professor Fredrickesen's honorarium.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for March 13. Details as to the time and place will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

- Louise Kreutziger

Lexington United Methodist Church Budget 2004

The 2004 budget was passed at Charge Conference on January 14, 2004. Please direct questions to Keith Herndon or members of the Finance Committee.

Contingent upon Rev. Susan J. Morrison serving as pastor through at least December 31 2004.

	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	Budget Increase
PASTOR'S SALARY							
Salary	48,025	50,794	53,010	53,000	53,188	55,270	4%
TOTAL	48,025	50,794	53,010	53,000	53,188	55,270	4%
STAFF & SUPPORT							
Music Director	8,501	6,170	15,231	15,250	14,010	9,667	
Organist/Accompanist	8,500	12,236	550	4,000	4,198	9,667	
Organist/Music Director Total				19,250	18,208	19,334	0%
Office Administrator	14,725	14,207	16,143	15,224	16,194	15,915	5%
Pulpit Supply	100	0	75	150	125	150	0%
Christian Ed Director	2,320	5,252	8,691	8,715	8,820	8,946	3%
Youth Coordinator		500	0	0	0	0	0%
Intern	1,750	832	833	1,000	2,167	1,000	0%
Children/Youth Choir Dir.	1,100	1,478	1,596	1,600	1,169	1,633	2%
Social Security	2,711	3,221	3,213	3,514	3,349	3,648	4%
Worker's Compensation	227	250	281	300	407	312	4%
Health Insurance	5,760	6,192	6,160	12,750	13,892	12,663	-1%
Pastor Health Ins. Copay	0	0	0	0	0	480	0%
TOTAL	45,693	50,338	52,772	62,503	64,331	64,081	3%
MISSION SHARES (CONFERENCE)							
World Service / Benevolence	10,664	11,579	11,088	14,674	16,812	13,886	-5%
General Conf Benevolence	845	801	667	846	975	826	-2%
Ministerial Support	21,358	24,715	21,990	28,817	33,056	29,893	4%
Administration	4,031	4,441	3,691	6,168	6,872	6,652	8%
TOTAL	36,898	41,536	37,436	50,505	57,715	51,257	1%
LUMC MISSIONS							
Nicaragua Covenant	1,300	0	0	0	0	0	
Safe Havens	0	250	250	250	250	250	0%
Reconciling Ministries	0	250	250	250	0	250	0%
Respecting Differences						100	
TOTAL	1,300	500	500	500	250	600	20%
PARSONAGE EXPENSES							
Water	820	783	513	800	523	800	0%
Electricity	801	1,131	691	1,300	500	0	-100%
Fuel Oil	515	1,184	941	1,300	1,114	0	-100%
Propane	279	319	161	375	261	0	-100%
Telephone	550	600	600	700	418	0	-100%
Maintenance	247	994	604	1,000	1,072	1,000	0%
Insurance	1,580	390	591	700	523	750	7%
Contributions to Cap. Fund	0	0	0	1,500	12,220	3,000	100%
Moving Expense				3,000	0	0	-100%
Refurbish Parsonage				2,395	2,407	0	-100%
TOTAL	4,792	5,400	4,100	13,070	19,038	5,550	-58%
CHURCH EXPENSES							
Lexington UMC Corp	41,504	41,360	43,410	40,092	40,092	40,810	2%
Office Expense & Postage	4,337	4,532	3,129	3,800	3,008	3,800	0%
Telephone	1,932	1,989	2,372	2,200	2,720	1,700	-23%
TOTAL	47,773	47,881	48,911	46,092	45,820	46,310	0%

Budget 2004 (continued)

	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	Budget Increase
WORK AREAS, PROGRAMS							
Youth Group	47	0	96	150	30	150	0%
Christian Education	2,885	2,526	1,391	4,000	1,541	3,500	-13%
Worship	2,438	2,074	753	550	379	550	0%
Music			2,173	950	343	3,800	300%
Children's Choir	65	12	0	250	77	250	0%
Fellowship/Hospitality	65	49	0	100	0	100	0%
Outreach	847	929	607	600	700	750	25%
Stewardship	251	34	599	750	367	750	0%
Adult Education	0	0	0	50	0	50	0%
Financial Secretary	308	34	109	300	74	300	0%
Treasurer	0	197	170	275	251	300	9%
Membership Cultivation	270	60	29	50	0	50	0%
Communications Ministry	392	1,062	939	500	1,132	1,500	200%
50th Anniversary	0	200	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	7,567	7,177	6,865	8,525	4,895	12,050	41%
TOTAL	192,048	203,627	203,594	234,195	245,237	235,118	0%
Direct Missions/Special Off	69,214	49,100	48,761		40,018		
Designated Funds/Reimbursement		13,522	19,419		21,526		
GRAND TOTALS	261,263	266,249	271,774	234,195	306,781		
NOTE: TOTAL MISSIONS SPENDING	1,300	49,600	49,261	500	40,268		
BUDGET INCOME							
Gross Pledges				167,000		167,000	0%
Pledges Received in Prior Yr				(13,000)		(12,692)	-2%
Pledges	126,217	124,617	141,754	154,000	148,824	154,308	0%
Prev Year Pledges	4,300	2,040	2,932	5,500	4,520	5,500	0%
Next Year Pledges	24,945	12,200	6,800	13,000	12,692	13,000	0%
Loose Plate & Gifts	3,808	9,659	4,648	3,000	5,676	3,000	0%
Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas	4,540	5,801	4,936	5,500	3,798	5,500	0%
Methodist Weekday School	20,991	35,972	23,104	34,459	32,115	35,358	3%
Fund Raising & Reimbsd Exps	2,591	5,121	18,246	3,000	13,092	3,000	0%
Parsonage Capital Campaign	9,021			7,000	6,145	0	-100%
Parsonage Rental Net					10,720	16,350	0%
Special One-Time Gift				5,000	5,000	0	-100%
Expend. from Operating Bal.				2,000			
TOTAL	196,414	195,410	202,420	232,459	242,582	236,016	2%
Direct Missions/Special Off	69,214	49,100	48,761		41,622		
Designated Funds/Reimbursement		6,357			24,598		
GRAND TOTALS	265,628	250,868	251,181	232,459	308,802		
(Shortfall)/Surplus	4,365	(8,217)	(1,174)	(1,736)	(2,655)	898	
(Shortfall)/Surplus - Inc. Direct Mission/Desig. Funds	4,365	(15,381)	(20,593)	(1,736)	2,022		
Operating Balance (01 Jan.)		15,100					

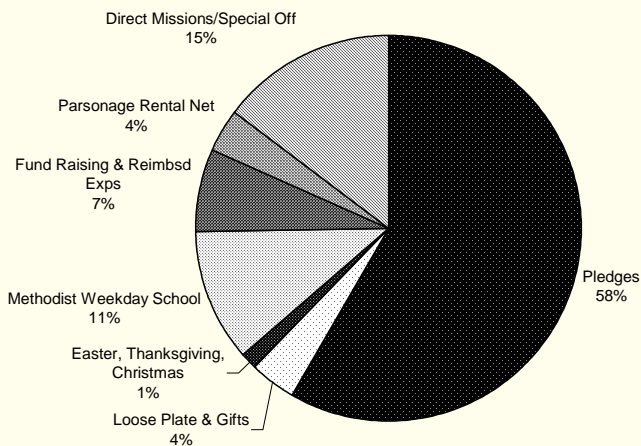
Budget 2004 (continued)

PARSONAGE RENTAL BUDGET FY 2004

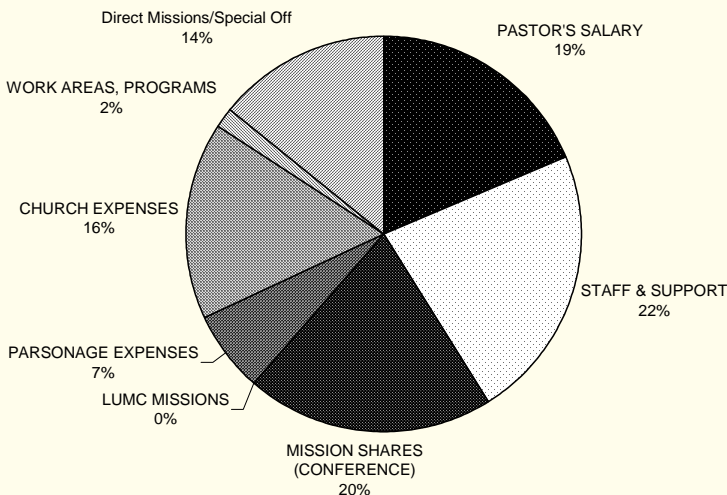
Contingent upon Rev. Susan J. Morrison serving as pastor through at least December 31 2004.

	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
PARSONAGE RENTAL EXPENSES		
Property Tax	0	5,600
Realtor's Service Fee	1,300	900
Pastor's Gift	1,800	7,200
Yard Care	1,780	1,150
TOTAL	4,880	14,850
PARSONAGE RENTAL INCOME		
Rent	15,600	31,200
Net to LUMC BUDGET	10,720	16,350
Note: Security Deposit	2,600	

Breakdown of Income FY2003
Total Income \$308,802



Breakdown of Expenses FY 2003
Total Expenses \$306,781



Stewardship Campaign Results

It is with a great deal of pleasure to announce that the 2003 Stewardship Campaign has come to a successful close. The "final" tally for pledges submitted to the LUMC budget is \$167,000. There were 74 pledges, seven of which were new this year. The final total compares favorably to last year's pledged contributions. You should all be proud of your collective efforts. Considering the very real challenges that were overcome to achieve this total, we are very pleased with the results. You are all a blessing to the LUMC.

We join in recognizing and thanking the Stewardship Committee members: Mary Driscoll, Clinton Fawcett, Jane Hogan, Betty Hunt, David Kramer, and Jean Roth for their considerable assistance and moral support. Sincere thanks also go out to Jane Hogan and Audrey Hale for their insightful and inspirational Ministry Moments. We are glad so many made the prayerful decision to join us on "The Path With a View" and joined in making the campaign a success.

Grace and Peace,

Dale Brunelle, Stewardship Chair
Susan Morrison, Pastor

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

March Book Club

LUMC's Book Club will meet on Friday, March 5 at 7:30 pm at Betty Lehr's home. The group will read *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Card Exchange Generosity

During Advent, we raised a total of \$265.00 through our Christmas Card Exchange Program. This money was divided equally between the Roxbury Food Cupboard and the Lexington Food Pantry. A check for \$132.50 was sent to each of these organizations to help feed the hungry in our midst. Many thanks to all who contributed.

- Betty Lehr

REACHING OUT...

OUTREACH IN 2003

The Outreach Committee closed 2003 as a year of regrouping and refocusing. We've had three programs on the Palestinian situation and included some of their artifacts for sale in our Alternative Christmas Market. We've made the transition from the Leadership of the Nicaragua sub-committee of Bob and Linda Miner to Linda Rings without causing a ripple. An annual trip to La Borgoña still happens, the material aid drive is successful, and funded programs continue. We continue to search for ways to become meaningfully involved in securing affordable housing in suburban Boston; so far by attending meetings and developing contacts.

Roxbury Pantry: What a wonderful response from this congregation. We collected 516 items. That is more than we collected in 2001 and 2002 combined. Thank you SO much! And now for the challenge!

It is an unfortunate fact that charitable giving falls off dramatically following the passing of the Christmas season and the end of the tax year. Thousands of families in our local area will have to choose: HEAT or EAT!! We have a goal of collecting 1,000 items in 2004 for local relief. If 50 families bring two items a month, we'll have over 1000 items. If most of us who could, contributed one item a week...well, you do the math. It is in our power to make a significant difference. If you choose to make this one of your charities, thank you.

Janis Roihl is distributing by e-mail a list of current sale items at nearby stores that would be suitable for the Roxbury Pantry. If you are interested, speak to Janis or send her a message at jroihl@rcn.com.

Alternative Christmas Market: What a wonderful chaotic morning. The congregation bubbled over with enthusiasm and generosity. When you "purchase" a charitable item, you teach the recipient what Christmas is about and you show that you understand what Jesus taught. LUMC received from:

50th anniversary video:	\$115.00
Equal Exchange Coffee:	\$117.20
Amnesty International:	\$170.00
Chacocente (Cheryl Avery's current project):	\$966.50
Habitat for Humanity:	\$135.00
Heifer Project:	\$470.00
Liberia (Pastor George's work with orphans):	\$715.00
Nicaragua:	\$278.00
Palestine:	\$182.00
Reach (formerly, Waltham shelter for battered women):	\$180.00

By Bob Miner, chairperson

SIX TRAVEL TO LA BORGÒA

Marnie Bonner and Don Walker will fly to Managua on February 12, to be followed by Rev. Susan and Jay Morrison with daughter Rebecca (who will serve as interpreter) and Chairperson Linda Rings on February 14. This second group will return on February 19, while Marnie and Don follow them on February 23.

Linda writes: "As we prepare to go to La Borgoña we take with us all of you and your generous donations. Just for my own information, I tallied up most of the items that were received. I thought you might find the list interesting:

56 spiral notebooks, 36 letter-sized legal pads, 6 packs of white lined paper, 305 new pencils, 171 pens, 16 boxes of crayons (24 count), 4 packs of markers, 4 pencil sharpeners, 9 backpacks, 11 bottles of glue, 30 bottles of vitamins, 58 bottles of pain relief medicines, 14 boxes of Band-Aids, 8 tubes of antibiotic ointment, 181 bars of soap, 8 bottles of antibacterial soap, 12 bottles of shampoo, 32 tubes of toothpaste, 29 kid toothbrushes, 56 adult toothbrushes, 7 pairs of shoes, 30 tee-shirts, 60 pair of girls underwear, 36 pair of boys underwear, various items of clothing, sewing supplies including 20 zippers, and, COUNTLESS small bottles of shampoo, lotion and bars of soap.

You may know that this trip will be a little different since we are staying in the homes of the Nicaraguans so that we can be more in community with them. We are going to help paint their church and anticipate a soccer game with us as participants! That ought to be interesting! There will be a graduation of 65 computer students and it will be quite an event with a festival as part of the celebration. We hope to sign a new covenant with them that will take us through the next five years. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we go to La Borgoña.

When looking through the suitcases that have been donated over the years to the Nicaragua Committee, I found a wedding dress, underskirt and crown. They were in a suitcase with a plaid zipper side on one side. The dress is short and has short sleeves with lace and pearls at the neck and shoulders. The little crown is of pearly berries and white flowers. If this belongs to you, please let me know even if you do not want it back."

For the Outreach Committee by Bill Santelmann

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!

Thanks especially to **Janis Roihl** for ALL but the last of this month's web addresses!

- <http://www.fairtradevendors.com/links/partners2.html>

Listings of Fair Trade Vendors, including Fair Trade Coffee, Wild Boar Creek: A Cambodian Village, African Art, Salvadoran Crafts, Pottery from Latin America, and more!

- <http://www.quixote.org/nca/>

Nicaraguan Cultural Alliance. "Celebrating the Art & Beauty of Nicaragua." Ceramic plates, Paintings, Hand-Decorated Pottery, Balsa Carvings, Note and Business Cards. Supporting Nicaraguan artists and artisans.

- <http://www.oneworld.net/article/frontpage/8/503>

OneWorld Jobs and Volunteering. "We've helped thousands of people since 1995 find their ideal job and volunteer placement in the development and NGO sector. If you're a partner, you can post jobs for free at any time."

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

Global Issues That Affect Everyone. Background information on Trade Related Issues, Geopolitics, Human Rights Related Issues, Environmental Issues, etc.

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

The International Center of Bethlehem. Click on "About Us," and then on "Staff." The first photo you will see is Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, the pastor of the Bethlehem Christmas Lutheran Church. Further down on the Staff page is Rev. Sandra Olwine (not Olewine) who visited us in October. It is a good photo of her, too. Her e-mail address is solewine@annadwa.org.

The gift shop can be found on the main menu as "The Cave Gift Shop."

- Prepared by Bill Santelmann

Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers and Condolences are with Dottie and Gerry McLeod on the sudden and unexpected death of their son, David on January 30, 2004 and with his wife, Dana and son, Austin. Notes may be sent to Dottie and Gerry McLeod at 71 Spring Street, Lexington, MA, 02421-7817.

Letters

Christmas greetings were received from Donna Dempewolf, a former LUMC intern. Writes Donna:

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! The last two years have been a whirlwind for me. I returned to work at 3M and then spent a few months in 2003 in Europe. My family is doing well. I hope to graduate from BU in May. Greetings to all.

- Donna Dempewolf
6155 10th St., N.Oakdale, MN, 55128

Steve and Ann Sommer also sent their Christmas greetings and a beautiful picture of three year old son, Grant.

We think of you often and enjoy reading the LUMC Newsletter. Grant is 3 and keeps us busy and amused. May God's peace be with you. Happy New Year!

- Steve, Ann and Grant Sommer
2665 Ferncreek Lane, York, PA, 17404

Thank you!

As always, your Christmas purse was generous and most appreciated. Thank you for the gift, but more importantly, thank you for the gift that each of you is to LUMC!

With gratitude, Rev. Susan

Many thanks for the generous gift!

- David Babbidge




Many thanks for the Christmas check and card that Keith Herndon presented to me on your behalf!

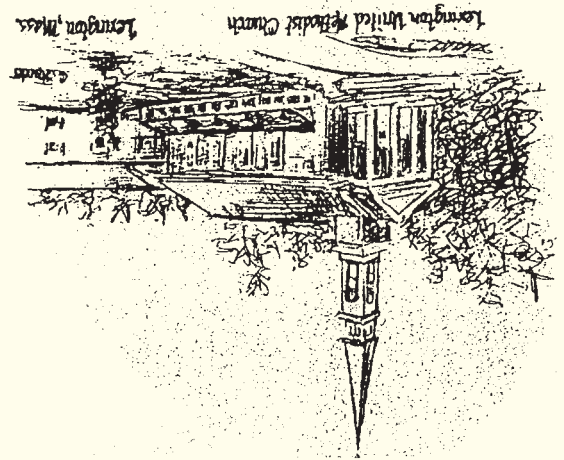
Thank you, Allyson Printz

I will like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the family of Lexington United Methodist Church for her generous gift to the Liberian Ophanage Project. It was unfortunate that Mrs. Diana Davies, the scheduled speaker, could not make it to preach [on January 18, 2004]. However, I had to step in and the Lord was faithful to us and blessed the service.

Thank you all, George Walters-Sleyon

February 2004 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Service of Word and Table</p> <p>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 (6-12) 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 Staff Meeting 3:00 pm Rev. Susan-worship at Brookhaven 5:00 pm CWM Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> <p>10:00 am Bible and Bagels</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30 pm Respecting Differences Coalition</p> <p>7:30 pm SPRC annual meeting with DS Aida Fernandez</p> <p>7:30 pm NQMA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Noon Lexington Interfaith Clergy Assoc.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>7:30 pm John Kramer Piano Recital</p> </div>
<p>8</p> <p>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>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 (6-12) 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</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 am Bible and Bagels</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 pm Finance Mtg.</p> <p>8:00 pm Ad. Council</p>	<p>LUMC journeys to Nicaragua</p>		<p>14</p> <p>St. Valentine's Day</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>15</p> <p>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Domestic Violence Prevention Sunday</p> <p>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 (6-12) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study Domestic Violence Prevention 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Presidents' Day (office closed)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 pm NQMA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 pm SPRC</p> <p>7:30 pm Membership Cultivation</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p>8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Communion served in the library 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); Youth Sunday School (6-12) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study/Low Income Housing 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship</p> <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px;">Roxbury Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>23</p> <p>March Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>10:00 am Bible and Bagels</p> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p>All Nicaraguan Delegation returns</p> </div>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am Clergy Cluster (Watertown)</p> <p>1:30 pm Covenant Group (Landers')</p> <p>7:30 pm Corporation Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>8:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service with St. John's UMC</p> </div>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 pm Covenant Group (Kreutzigers')</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00 pm Newsletter Collation</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am Lexington Food Pantry</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>29</p> <p>First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>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 (6-12) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Covenant Groups 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship</p>	<div style="background-color: orange; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>Important Dates to Save in Your Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Kramer Recital: Saturday, February 7, 7:30 pm at LUMC Movie Time: <i>The Passion</i> March 13 matinee; time TBD </div>					
<p>9</p>						



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/Sermon Talk Back
- 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

February 2004 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



Solo Piano Recital
Saturday, February 7; 7:30 pm
(See page 5 for details.)

Telephone 781-861-9301
Fax 781-861-7228
Website www.lexumc.org
Office Email office@lexumc.org