

The Lexington United Methodist Church
an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

February 2011

Vol. 59, No. 2

From the Pastor's Study...

Reconciling Ministry Sunday

In this month's newsletter you will find the pastoral letter from the Council of Bishops, "The Beloved Community." Written at the time of the past year's elections, the letter addresses the growing divisiveness in the world and within our own society. It is an appeal to the church to find the path of love a reconciliation which Christians see in Jesus. As I read the letter, it is clear that the message is not one of passive accommodation to the voices of oppression and hate (implying that we must speak softly to those who tear down all that upholds human dignity). Rather, I hear the bishops calling to the church to boldly bear witness to those dynamics which will create a new sense of our common life under-girded by justice for all, not just the privileged and powerful.

To take one step forward in this great work, our congregation, several years ago, engaged in a process of discernment which led to our becoming a Reconciling Community in the United Methodist Church. We have stated unequivocally that we are a congregation which welcomes all persons, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered. Today there are over 300 such churches in our connection which have affirmed this policy. Still, the statement of intent is only one step. To be a Reconciling Community is a journey of many steps.

Accordingly, our Nurture Committee has enthusiastically supported the designation of the second Sunday of February as "Reconciling Ministry Sunday." The date of February 13 was chosen because of its proximity to Valentine's Day, a time when we celebrate love for one another. We have invited Cambridge Welcoming Ministries to share with us in worship at the morning service. Marla Marcum, our director of Christian education, is co-lead of this ministry, and she and the pastoral leader, Lisa Fagerstrom, will assist in the worship. They will be making a special presentation to LUMC in recognition of our efforts to build a more inclusive witness to Christ. This will be a proud moment for our church. It should inspire and motivate us to continue the journey toward the creation of that "beloved community," in which all of God's children are welcome and have a meaningful place. I urge you to make every effort to attend this special time of worship in which we are reconciled to God and one another in the name of Jesus Christ.



Richard Capron, pastor

February 2011 Worship

Worship begins at 10:00 am with Prelude,
Gathering Music and Nursery Care



February 6 Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12; Matthew 5: 13-20
Sermon: *Exceeding the Law*

February 13 Reconciling Ministry Sunday

1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Matthew 5: 21-24
Sermon: *Be Reconciled*

February 20
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18; Matthew 5: 38-48
Sermon: *A Perfect Life*

February 27
Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany
Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection
Isaiah 49: 8-16a; Matthew 6: 24-34
Sermon: *The Birds of the Air*

Prayer List Updates

To update the prayer list printed in the weekly worship bulletin, contact Richard Capron or Allyson Printz. Also, if you know of someone in need of a pastoral visit, please inform Richard.

Michael Anderson, Marisa Beecy, Antonio Carlos, Shilpa Carlson, Bonnie Codier, Cal Coffey, Ione and John Garing, Cynthia Good, Family of Camille Goodwin, Muriel Grimes, family of Marcia Guay, Peter Haritos, Jane Hogan and her sister Lynda, Jim Hogan, Myles Johnson and family, Linton family, Pastor Absalon Lopez and Felix, Norma Monbouquette, Steve Mosiello, Bill Santelmann, Shannon Searson, Scott Tolar, Rainer von Saleski, Don Walker and Elizabeth Walker.

Condolences and prayers to the family of Kriss Pettersen and Julie Berard and their family on the death of Kriss's mother, Carol Pettersen who died on Sunday, January 9, 2011.

Newsletter Deadlines

Send your submission to office@lexumc.org.

2/28/11 • 3/28/11

4/25/11 • 5/23/11 • 6/27/11

Ian Woods Moving

After far too many years of school (I lost count after the 25th grade), I have finally found a 'real' job. Late this summer I will begin a position as a biology professor at Ithaca College in upstate New York. My feelings of gratitude and relief that stem from this new opportunity are tempered with feelings of sadness and nostalgia. Michelle and I have really come to love the Boston area a bunch, and we will be sad to go. We will especially miss all of the great friends we have found here at LUMC. The LUMC family was incredibly welcoming to us when we arrived five years ago, and has continued to be amazingly supportive ever since then. It has been delightful to watch Crosby and Joni grow up in such a loving and nurturing church environment.

On a personal note, I have immensely enjoyed working with the incredibly talented and enthusiastic LUMC choir. Whatever the choir lacks in sheer numbers has been more than compensated for by the hard work, positive attitude, and innate musicality of its faithful members.

Along with Michelle, Crosby, and Joni, I'd like to thank the LUMC community and especially the choir for all of the good times over the past five years. Please stay in touch!

- Ian

Adult Studies in February

11th Hour for Adults

Continuing in February, 11th Hour for Adults and Youth focuses on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, reading Naim Ateek's book *A Palestinian Christian's Cry for Reconciliation*. The pastor will augment the study with visuals and commentary on his recent trip to the West Bank. In March, Ken Kreutziger will lead a study, *Jacob's Dream*, which uses enneagrams to assess our personalities and improve the quality of our human interactions.

Bible and Beyond

The Wednesday evening Bible and Beyond study group will begin a new study in January focusing on the Psalms. The guide which the group will use is *The Psalms for Today*, by Beth Laneel Tanner, associate professor of Old Testament at New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

From the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church (November 6, 2010)

Grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ!

We, the bishops of The United Methodist Church, feel compelled to renew our commitment to work to become the beloved community of Christ. We, as a Council, desire to deal with the crucial and critical issues of racism and the sacredness of every human being. Therefore, as the spiritual and administrative leaders of the church, we issue an urgent call to the whole people of God, lay and clergy: to speak the truth in love in public and private discourse, to act with compassion, and to work for peace and justice in the world.

In order to transform the world, in faithfulness to Christ's command, we must model respect and kindness and extinguish the fires of animosity. And thus, we call on all churches to engage in genuinely honest dialogue and respectful conversation, such that others who observe the action in our lives might declare "See how they love each other!"

As people of faith, we are charged to build the beloved community because Christ has broken down the dividing walls and ended the hostilities between us. Yet, we continue to build walls in the church and in the world which separate us and cause our hearts to grieve.

On the continent of Africa and in many parts of Asia, including the Middle East, the Philippines and India, the historical and contemporary impact of colonialism, racism, tribalism, hostility and religious persecution continue to affect human relationships.

The challenge in the Philippines is to break down the barriers between mainline society and tribal peoples. Meeting this challenge will accord equal rights such as land possession and free education for all.

By nature, colonialism in Africa thrives on hostile, violent and demeaning human relationships. Racism and tribalism cut deep wounds, not only in one's flesh, but also on the soul and the spirit. These gaping wounds leave permanent scars.

In Europe racism is a growing issue, with political parties openly working against minority, ethnic and religious communities. Prejudice is overtly articulated in the media, in politics and even in churches.

Throughout the United States, there has been a rapid escalation of violence related to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religious preference. This escalation includes personal attacks, bullying and vicious and criminal acts of violence

to the mind, body and spirit of persons. These actions diminish life for the victims and their families, as well as for the perpetrators and the whole community. They are the ultimate insidious and irreverent attacks on the sacredness of God-given life.

Across the world, terrorism - as demonstrated by wanton acts of violence against innocent persons - leaves a trail of loss of life, limb, home and community. Discriminatory treatment is widely practiced against immigrants and refugees everywhere around the world. All of this creates a universal atmosphere of suspicion, mistrust and fear. Often this is the result of religious persecution of various faith communities, including Christians, which threatens the capacity or hope for reconciliation and peace. The church is called to decisively and directly counter these acts and engender and empower a "perfect love that casts out all fear." (1 John 4:18, NRSV) Through intentional action we can "overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21, NRSV)

It is incumbent upon the bearers of this vision of a beloved community to do whatever we can today to hasten the day of a just world with peace. This is our hope, our prayer and our commitment.



Finance Corner

This is the final summary of LUMC finances for 2010:

Total LUMC income through 12/31/10:
\$236,236

Total income budgeted through 12/31/10:
\$241,579

Total LUMC expense through 12/31/10:
\$231,139

Total expense budgeted through 12/31/10:
\$241,479

As you can see, we have completed another successful financial year, ending the year with a small surplus. Thank you all for your commitment and generous contributions to LUMC.

- Eric Shank, Chair, Finance



Marla's Musings

With the start of the new year, we are embarking on some new Christian Education adventures at LUMC, and everyone involved is working together (and thankfully giving me some grace to figure out my part in the adventures!). I have been working with the *Godly Play* teachers and the Nurture committee to bring some new life into the *Godly Play* curriculum. After sharing the same lessons for several years, it is time to add some new content to a beloved teaching method. Since mid-January, *Godly Play* teachers and participants have been stepping out in faith with new parable lessons that we are developing in the *Godly Play* style. Thanks to Becky Linton, the parable of the lamp on a stand (Matthew 5:14-15) led this new effort. I had an adventure preparing the second parable – the wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7:24-27). Jake and I had fun making miniature houses and then experimenting until we found the most reliable combination of sand and water to topple one of the houses so that the teacher for the week (Rae Lavalla) would not be forced to topple it herself. Louise Kreutziger (Rae's door person that Sunday) reports that the children had just as much fun with the miniature houses, water, and sand as Jake and I did. I'm afraid I set the bar pretty high with water and sand, but I'm working hard to put that same fun and sense of adventure into all of the parables for this season.

It has been several years since the last confirmation class at LUMC, and it is certainly the first time I have participated in confirmation as a

leader. Pastor Richard and I have been working to pull together the best parts of the many resources available, and we are excited to announce the Samuel Chin and Ethan Lavalla have joined us for an exploration of our Christian faith, the United Methodist Church, and the meaning of membership in a local congregation. At our next meeting, Samuel and Ethan will each have the opportunity to choose an adult mentor from the congregation, and so our merry band of adventurers will grow from four to six Christians on the journey together. We hope that you'll make a special effort to join the confirmands and their mentors on this journey. One way to provide this support will be to join us for Ash Wednesday services (the evening of March 9) as we explore the meaning of this important tradition and ritual in the liturgical year. Let me know if you have other ideas for supporting Samuel and Ethan as we travel together toward Easter (which is also Confirmation Sunday).

This year we have been given quite a few weeks in the church calendar for the journey from Epiphany to Lent. You don't have to be a young person to approach this journey as an adventure. How are you inspired this year by the magic of Epiphany? We work to provide opportunities for all ages to engage in meaningful Christian Education programming. Join us in our current adventures, or let me know if you have an idea for the next big journey.

- Marla Marcum, Christian Education Director

Godly Play

- Feb. 6 Children attend worship
- Feb. 13 Becky Linton, Julie Munro
The Parable of the Lowest Seat
(Luke 14:7-11)
- Feb. 20 Rae Lavalla, Louise Kreutziger
The Parable of the Lost Coin
(Luke 15:8-10)
- Feb. 27 Lara Anthony, Mark Thompson
The Parable of the Lost Sheep
(Matthew 18:12-14)



Nursery Schedule

- Feb. 6 Theresa and Melanie Walker
- Feb. 13 James Chin and Michelle Woods
- Feb. 20 Kathy Parks and Janice Herndon
- Feb. 27 Michelle Woods and Julie Munro

LUMC Book Club

The LUMC Book Club will be reading *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home* by Rhoda Janzen. We will be meeting on Tuesday, March 1 at 1:30 at the church.

New members are always welcome to join us for the discussion of a particular book or on-going. For further information, call Smoki Fraser (781-862-7394) or Shawna Johnston (781-820-5389).

February 2011 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3:00 pm Jazz Time	2 7:30 pm Bible and Beyond 	3 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4	5 Noon-4:00 pm Confirmation Class
6 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Acolyte, Usher, Liturgist Training 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 3:30 pm Lexington Choral Festival (First Baptist) 	7	8 3:00 pm Jazz Time 7:15 pm Nurture Committee	9 7:30 pm Bible and Beyond 	10 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 Reconciling Ministry Sunday 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:30 am 11 th Hour for Adults and Youth	14 Valentine's Day 	15 3:00 pm Jazz Time 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	16 7:30 pm Bible and Beyond 	17 10:30 am Witness Committee 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:30 am 11 th Hour for Adults and Youth	21 Presidents' Day (office closed) Newsletter Deadline	22 3:00 pm Jazz Time	23 7:30 pm Bible and Beyond 	24 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	25 12:30 pm Newsletter Collation	26 8:30 - 11:15 Lexington Food Pantry
27 Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:30 am 11 th Hour for Adults and Youth	28					

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Sixth Annual Lexington Choral Festival!

Sunday, February 6; 3:30 pm
First Baptist Church
(1580 Massachusetts Ave.
Lexington, MA)

Sunday Program

8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care
10:00 am *Godly Play* (N-5)
10:00 am Youth Group
11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall
11:30 am 11th Hour for Adults and Youth

LEXINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

