

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

January 2005

Vol. 53, No. 1

From the Pastor's Study...

As we write thank you notes for our Christmas gifts and take down the decorations and enjoy the holiday leftovers, in the words of Howard Thurman, "*the work of Christmas begins.*" This January we will honor Human Relations Sunday and the Martin Luther King holiday by addressing the pressing issues of white racism and white privilege. Surely these are relevant topics to us as Christians, for wherever there is persecution or oppression or inequality Jesus is there calling us to "*the work of Christmas.*"

And what is "*the work of Christmas*" you ask? To find the lost. To heal the broken. To feed the hungry. To release the prisoner. To rebuild the nations. To bring peace among all people. To make music in the heart. *

And how do we approach this daunting work? Several answers to that came across my desk during the Christmas season. Beth Stroud, whose ministerial credentials were recently removed by our United Methodist denomination, preached to her congregation in Germantown, PA immediately after her trial. And she said:

"One of the characteristics of the life of faith is the experience of counterintuitive joy. Just when the logical response to external circumstances would seem to be anger, or frustration, or despair, the person of faith may experience a strong, deep sense of confidence and gladness."

This was her experience during post trial Advent days. Counterintuitive joy. God is the source of this precious gift. If we are to do "*the work of Christmas*" then we best be ready to receive the gift of counterintuitive joy so that we never become too discouraged and overwhelmed by the circumstances of the world.

Then there was Rev. Naim Ateek's Christmas greeting from Jerusalem. His was a message of defiance. He spoke on behalf of faithful Palestinian Christians when he wrote:

"Christmas makes us defiant. We defy hate because we believe in the power of love and forgiveness: we defy despair because we believe in life and hope: we defy violence and terror because we believe in the power of peace and nonviolence: we defy war and the occupation of other people's lands because we believe in the power of peaceful methods based on international law and legitimacy: we defy and challenge those who humiliate and degrade others because we believe in the dignity of every human being."

Truly "*the work of Christmas*" calls us to be defiant in the face of injustice anywhere.

Equipped with God's love and the hope of the Prince of Peace, I believe that we are empowered to do "*the work of Christmas*" in the days and months of 2005. May we have the courage to be defiant and the openness to be surprised by counterintuitive joy as we live out our ministries as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Always in Christ,



Rev. Susan J. Morrison

*quoted from Howard Thurman's *The Work of Christmas*

January Worship 2005

January 2

Covenant Sunday Epiphany Celebration Service of Word and Table

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Using the Epiphany lessons from Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12, Rev. Susan will preach on *New Year's Resolutions*. Wesley's Covenant Service will invite a renewal of our covenant with God as we begin a new year. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

January 9

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Andrea Laux will be the preacher. Her texts will be Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-17. Rev. Susan will lead a renewal of our baptismal vows.

January 16

Human Relations Sunday Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00 Communion in the Library

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Harry Johnson, a long time United Methodist activist will preach on white racism. His sermon title is *Privilege and Responsibility*. Scripture readings are Genesis 1:26-31; Song of Solomon 1:5-7 and Matthew 15:21-28. He and Jay Morrison will facilitate conversation at the 11th Hour Study on this timely topic.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of human beings. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered humans have torn down, people other-centered can build up.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.
Nobel Prize Speech, 1964

January 23

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Jay Morrison will share his perspective on white privilege as we continue the conversation on racism. His sermon topic is *Power vs. Love*. Scripture readings are Exodus 21: 20-21; Matthew 27: 27-32; and Luke 4:5-8. Jay and Harry Johnson will facilitate the 11th Hour Study.

January 30

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection

9:15 Praise Music; 9:30 Worship

Beatitude Living will be Rev. Susan's sermon topic as she reflects on this Sunday's lectionary readings from Micah 6:1 - 8 and Matthew 5:1 - 12.



Liturgist Training

Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 pm

A number of people have asked for a liturgist training event. What better time to arrange for such a workshop than the beginning of a new year? At this workshop, we will discuss the format of Sunday morning worship and understanding it from a theological perspective. The role of the liturgist will be explained and we will role play the role!! Everyone is invited to attend. If you cannot be there and would like to be a liturgist on occasional Sunday mornings, please speak to me or fill out the liturgist questionnaire that will be an insert in the worship bulletin in January.

The word *liturgy* means "work of the people." It is a gift of oneself to God to participate in worship as a liturgist. If you have been a liturgist in the past, I hope that you will come to the workshop and share your experience. If you have never been liturgist and would like to find out more about it, I hope that you will come to the workshop, too!

- Rev. Susan

Creating Lexington UMC'S Future

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

Upcoming Events

Opening Conversations

- Monday, January 10, 7:00-9:00 pm
 - Sunday, January 23, 2:00-4:00 pm
 - Thursday, February 17, 7:00-9:00 pm
- March 4 - 6: *Future Search Weekend Event*

Have Your Say

The process of Creating LUMC's Future will enter its next phase in January and February and everyone will have an opportunity to **have your say**. Three sets of "opening conversations" have been scheduled. These will be times when anyone may suggest a topic for discussion. Those who wish to share in that topic will join that group. If you don't want to stay with the group you first join, you are free to move to another. There will be two or three sessions each day led by our consultants Derek Kotze and Rick Lent.

Opening Conversations are scheduled for dates indicated in the box above.

Some of the topics that have already come up and might be suggested for conversations:

- ◆ Changing the name of LUMC to more closely reflect who we are – Metro West? Reconciling? Progressive?

- ◆ Federating with a UCC church – giving pastors standing in each
- ◆ New England Deaconess Association buying our property for long term care while letting LUMC and St. John's use the sanctuary and meeting rooms, and the Methodist Weekday School continuing in its space
- ◆ Going to a part time pastor and reduction of staff
- ◆ Merging with another United Methodist congregation
- ◆ Sharing staff with St. John's such as Music and Christian Education director.

What would *you* like to discuss about our future? What is your dream? Come to one or all of the opening conversations and share your thoughts. Change *is* coming. How do *you* see LUMC being faithful to our understanding of the Gospel message?

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

Are we being faithful to our understanding of the Gospel?

Quick Hospitality Quiz from Christian Community Inc.

(reprinted from Pilgrim UCC December 2004 newsletter)

1. **People most likely visit a church because of:**

- a. pastor
- b. friend
- c. personal problem
- d. TV ad

2. **Greeters/welcomers should be stationed at:**

- a. all entrances
- b. the parking lot
- c. guest book
- d. all of the above

3. **Visitors who return 3 or more times do so because:**

- a. facilities
- b. worship
- c. warmth of people
- d. pastor

4. **Name tags are essential for first-time visitors, but optional for members.**

- a. true
- b. false

Answers:

- 1. b. 86% come because a friend invited them
- 2. d. Wherever newcomers arrive
- 3. c. The most important factor is to feel welcomed and comfortable.
- 4. b. Name tags are a small mission effort everyone can make!

The Defrocking of Beth Stroud

As a justice minded, and more particularly a reconciling congregation, we affirm the sacred worth of every person. Last month an event occurred that severely challenged the sacred worth of one of our clergy, Beth Stroud.

After sharing with her congregation that she is a lesbian in a covenant relationship with her partner, Chris Paige, Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud faced a United Methodist church trial that began on December 1, 2004 and ended sadly with her being defrocked on December 2 for being honest about how our loving God created her.

The original charges were brought by Bishop Peter Weaver who was then Bishop of Pennsylvania, now Bishop of the New England Conference. He had met with Beth for a year and offered her the “options” of living celibately or leaving ordained ministry. Unable to find a solution that satisfied the law of our current *Book of Discipline*, Bishop Weaver brought charges against her.

The jury brought in a 12 – 1 verdict of guilty of violating the *Book of Discipline* and yet the verdict to take her ministerial credentials was 7 – 6. Obviously six people on that jury believed her integrity in speaking her truth should allow her to continue to serve as a pastor to her congregation which stands solidly behind her.

The large delegation from New England was second largest at the trial after the one from Pennsylvania. A former LUMC pastor, Rev Dick Harding, was among them.

We might also remind ourselves that the *Book of Discipline* is not the inspired word of God. It is a record of a simple majority of votes at General Conference. However, Law triumphed over Grace and the end result was the denomination’s loss of a gifted, qualified, and caring pastor, and Beth’s loss of her ordained ministry and livelihood.

For more information, please visit:

- <http://www.fumcog.org> First United Methodist Church of Germantown website
- <http://www.bethstroud.info> Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud website. For Beth's Coming Out sermon titled *Walking In the Light*, see www.bethstroud.info/outsermon.shtml. For Beth's first sermon since the trial titled *Rejoicing*, see www.bethstroud.info/sermons.shtml.
- <http://www.epaumc.org> Eastern Pennsylvania Conference website
- <http://www.churchwithinachurch.org/>

It is painful to think of the many closet doors that slammed shut as the policy of “don’t ask, don’t tell” was once again sent out as a warning to the hundreds, of faithful United Methodist seminarians, pastors, dis-

“Neither side questioned the validity of her [Beth Stroud’s] calling to ministry, neither side questioned the work of the Holy Spirit in her ministry at First United Methodist Church of Germantown, neither side questioned her baptism, her faith, or her love of Jesus that she so readily shares. Both sides affirmed her as a sister in Christ, a truth-teller, a role model of graciousness.”

- Rev. Troy Plummer

trict superintendents and bishops who are gay and lesbian. It is God who has called them to ministry.

When will the Methodist laity say “enough!” The *Book of Discipline* has done enough persecuting and denigrating of God’s faithful servants, humiliating them with the most intimate questions that no heterosexual couple would ever consider answering. When will we stand up as we did in the Civil Rights marches and during the Vietnam War and say this is WRONG? Why do we let our clergy, our most vulnerable to the laws, be on the front lines? We, the laity, must speak Gospel truth to power! God calls us! How will we answer?

- Janis Roihl (jroihl@rcn.com)

- Bill and Jean Santelmann (n1au@rcn.com)

Grassroots Day of Solidarity Planned

There has been a grassroots uprising in response to the defrocking of Beth Stroud in Maine’s northern and central districts of our annual conference. Because of their initiative, the Reconciling Ministries Committee of the New England Conference has named Saturday, January 22 as a Day of Solidarity in our annual conference with Sunday, January 30 as a snow date.

Four sites have been named for meeting places from 3:00-6:00 pm. Worship, prayer, conversation, and action will be the afternoon’s common agenda at all four sites. Casseroles will be shared (see Beth Stroud’s *Walking in the Light* sermon) and teleconferencing will allow the four groups to share their action ideas with one another.

Lexington UMC will offer hospitality to Methodists in the Boston area. Bangor, Maine; East Providence, R.I., and Springfield, MA will be the other sites for gatherings on this Day of Solidarity.

This is an opportunity for laity and clergy to express opinions. Won’t you join in this important endeavor? And please invite others who are both interested and concerned about our denomination’s policies toward gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered clergy. Questions? Contact Janis or Bill and Jean Santelmann.

- Janis Roihl (jroihl@rcn.com)

- Bill and Jean Santelmann (n1au@rcn.com)

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Christmas Carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written as a catechism for young Catholics so that they would remember religious truths. Can you guess what each of the 12 items stood for before reading the answers?

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me... A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me... Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas, my true love sent to me... Three French hens, Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree....Four calling birds; Five golden rings; Six geese a-laying; Seven swans a-swimming; Eight maids a-milking; Nine ladies dancing; Ten lords a-leaping; Eleven pipers piping; Twelve drummers drumming.

Answers

- ♦ Partridge in a pear tree = Jesus Christ
- ♦ 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- ♦ 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- ♦ 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- ♦ 5 Golden Rings = The Torah or Law: Genesis Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
- ♦ 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- ♦ 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy
- ♦ 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- ♦ 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control
- ♦ 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- ♦ 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- ♦ 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed



2004 Annual Reports due January 17, 2005

Committee chairpersons and church leaders are asked to submit their 2004 Annual reports to the church office by January 17. The preferred method is to relay Word documents by email (office@lexumc.org). Timely submissions are appreciated!



2005 Upper Room Disciplines Available

Copies of the *2005 Upper Room Disciplines* will be on sale during Fellowship Time in Martin Hall for \$9.00. You are encouraged to pick up a copy for yourself and your household. 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.



Finance Corner

Total 2004 receipts to LUMC through 11/30/04:

\$208,598

Total 2004 expenditures by LUMC through 11/30/04

\$218,998

Total 2004 expenditures budgeted through 11/30/04

\$215,525

Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support over the year. I am grateful for your pledges and special offerings but I am even more grateful for all the time and dedication that everyone puts into LUMC.

This is indeed (y)our church.

-Keith Herndon
Finance Committee Chair



Adult Study Opportunities



Sunday Morning 11th Hour

During this Epiphany season, when we watch for the way that God is manifested in our lives, interesting studies have been planned by the Adult Education Committee for our 11:00 am – noon study hour on Sundays.

A **two week study on Methodism** will be held on January 2 and 9. Rev. Susan will share materials on *The Wesleys* on January 2 and Andrea Laux will present *Methodist in America* on January 9.

On January 16 and 23, there will be a **two week study on White Racism and White Privilege** led by Harry Johnson and Jay Morrison. As we prepare to make decisions about the future of LUMC, this study is critical to our planning.

On January 30 and February 6 (the last two Sundays of Epiphany), Humaire Kirmani and Afshan Kirmani from the Islamic Center in Wayland will facilitate a discussion on the **Islamic Religion and Muslim traditions**.

Plan to attend these 11th Hour studies. If you would like nursery or childcare during these sessions, please let Rev. Susan know so that coverage can be arranged.



Bibles and Bagels God at 2000

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

Newcomers are always welcomed. Join this lively conversation on Monday mornings.

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February Newsletter
Articles due
Monday, January 24, 2005
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Prayer Practices Meditation

Holidays Got You All Riled Up? Come Slow Down with Meditation!

Join us at 7:30 pm on Thursday, January 20 as we are guided through a sitting meditation - no prior experience required - just a willing spirit!

Meditation is a discipline, a practice, and a path that dates back over 2,500 years to Buddha. As a discipline, it helps cultivate openness and concentration, heightening our awareness of both our inner being and the world around us. As a practice, it helps us discover who we are, develop greater compassion for ourselves and others, and open up to the deepest layers of experience. As a path, it is a way to grow, to deepen, to let go, and to live. Meditation is simple, easy, and accessible to everyone, no matter what your age, background, or experience. Please wear loose-fitting clothing (layers are best) and bring a towel to sit on and two small pillows to support your body.

Questions? Please contact Kristina Brown Brunelle at kbrown@novell.com or 617-448-8066.



Book Club to Read *Sea Glass* by Anita Shreve

Lexington UMC's Book Group will meet on Monday, January 24, 2005 at Smoki Fraser's home at 7:30 pm. Plan to read this interesting selection and join the group for a lively discussion and evening of fellowship.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

JANUARY GODLY PLAY

It is always a good time to give your child the gift of *Godly Play*, especially in this new year! Come join us as we meet weekly with Jesus!

- January 2 Epiphany
- January 9 Baptism
- January 16 Work Day: Valentines for Sunitha
- January 23 The Good Shepherd and World Communion
- January 30 The Good Samaritan

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you again to all who helped make our Christmas pageant a huge success - especially to our children, Dan Roihl, and all the members of the Christian Education Committee! Thank you also to the Administrative Council for preparing the food for the Christmas brunch. Table set-up by Jean Santelmann and Dottie Hewitt was colorful and the poinsettias were delivered to shut-ins during Christmas caroling.

Special thanks also to John and Ione Garing for the four Christmas wreaths that have decorated the front doors of LUMC during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Youth News

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, January 7 at 7:00 pm through Saturday, January 8 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. Bring a friend, your favorite movie and/or video game, and come stay up all night at the Youth Lock-IN!

For more information or if you are an adult and would like to join us as a chaperone, please contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com.



NQMA News

(Not Quite Middle Ageds)

Covenant Group

This January, the NQMA will be engaging in a covenant study of *Scarred By Struggle, Transformed By Hope* by Joan Chittister with study guides by Janis Roihl. We will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Library. If you were unable to attend one of the covenant groups this fall, please come and join us!

Questions? Contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com.

Lexington Reads

Kick Off at Cary Hall
January 9, 7:30 pm

A new program called *Lexington Reads* is being launched in January. Its goal is for people who live, work, or attend school in Lexington to connect by creating a town-wide book club.

Harvard professor, naturalist and Lexington resident, E.O. Wilson's book *The Future of Life* was chosen as the book for this year. Professor Wilson will kick off *Lexington Reads*. The desire is to create a community-building program for the town and to raise awareness of the critical environmental issues facing us in the 21st century.



A follow-up panel discussion by area environmental leaders will be held February 14 at the National Heritage Museum in conjunction with Jay Kaufman's Open House program. Also, well-known environmentalist Bill McKibben, who grew up in Lexington, will speak on April 16 at Hancock Church.

More information is available at the Lexington Reads website: <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/lexreads>.

REACHING OUT. . .

THANKS EVERYONE!

The Alternative Christmas Market was a success thanks to the people who prepared tables and the enthusiastic shoppers. Our total sales were \$3,600.23.

Our Special Thanks goes to the people who helped educate us on the work of their organizations and raised funds for that work.

We are grateful to Charles Dubs, Don Walker, Paul Linton, Ken Kreutziger, Rae Lavalla, Bob Rings, Jay Morrison, Bill and Jean Santelmann (our cashiers) and Louise Kreutziger for serving coffee and pastries before church.

From Janet Melcher

NICARAGUA MATERIAL AID DRIVE

Thank you, thank you, thank you once again for your extreme generosity in giving to the Nicaragua Material Aid Drive! Our church has increased its giving to this project each and every year. Those of us who are going in your name - Julie Munro, Jay and Susan Morrison, Linda Rings, and Don Walker are now challenged to fit it all into 10 suitcases. We carry the goods in the suitcases and put our own personal things in backpacks. It is really strange coming back with all those empty suitcases. I am proud to be a member of such a giving and loving community as LUMC.

From Linda Rings

ROXBURY FOOD PANTRY

We continue to do an incredible job collecting items for the Roxbury Food Pantry. The need is greater this year than ever and so is our response. With our collection in December, we will set the all time record for items collected for the Roxbury Food Pantry. Clearly, we continue to be an outward looking congregation not allowing any internal issues to distract us from the teaching of Jesus as we reach out to the needy and marginalized in the greater Boston community.

From Bob Miner

SPECIAL TV BROADCAST OF

"THE CONGREGATION"

From: <http://thecongregationmovie.com/>

"THE CONGREGATION, a cinema vérité TV documentary, profiles a progressive United Methodist church in the midst of profound change. [It is a complex portrait of a Protestant church, similar in many ways to our own LUMC, moving into the 21st century. It was shown on WGBH, Channel 2, Thursday, December 30, 2004, from 9:30~11:30pm and recorded for our future use at LUMC.

Producers Alan and Susan Raymond spent over one year filming the tumultuous life of the First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG). Located in a changing Philadelphia neighborhood, it is a racially mixed urban church with a commitment to a ministry of social justice.

Conflict arises upon the arrival of the Reverend Fred Day, a newly appointed traditionalist minister who replaces a progressive pastor who retired after 37 years of service. The congregation must confront the realities of a divided and dwindling membership and subsequent financial shortfall as they clash over Reverend Day's style of leadership, changes in the order of worship and a perceived shift to a more conservative ministry.

The congregation decides to seek outside consultants to conduct an examination to determine whether Reverend Day is the proper selection as pastor and to evaluate new directions for their church. This eight-month process causes further tensions within the congregation as they struggle to decide whether the new senior pastor should remain.

Another ordeal emerges when their associate pastor, the Reverend Beth Stroud, announces to the congregation that she is a self-avowed practicing homosexual. Although openly admitting her sexual orientation puts her at risk of losing her ministerial credentials, she receives the full support of the congregation in her challenge of church law.

On Dec. 1, 2004 Reverend Stroud faced a jury of thirteen Methodist ministers who voted 12-to-1 to find her guilty of violating the United Methodist Church's ban on self-avowed practicing homosexuals being or-dained as ministers. Reverend Stroud's ministerial credentials were removed and she can no longer administer

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REACHING OUT. . .

baptisms, marriages or Holy Communion. She remains a lay minister at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown. The two-day open clergy trial drew national media attention to the debate over gays in the clergy.

During the year, Reverend Day and the congregation continue their ministry for social justice by participating in anti-Iraq war protests at The National Cathedral in Washington, DC and supporting AIDS victims in South Africa as they host the Sinikithemba HIV Choir. The importance of teaching the congregation's next generation is shown through Reverend Stroud, in her role as youth minister, who guides the confirmation class and escorts the senior youth group on a community service project in Appalachia.

THE CONGREGATION presents a microcosm of the mainline Protestant churches who have historically supported liberal causes such as civil rights, racial and economic equality, anti-war movements and full inclusion of homosexuals. These churches, long-time standard bearers of the liberal tradition, have faced declining membership over the years and are now challenged by more conservative forces. The First United Methodist Church of Germantown represents the vanguard of churches that must persistently fight for both its liberal causes and its financial stability.

THE CONGREGATION offers an intriguing look at the behind-the-scenes work of a church in transition and the intimate stories of its two ministers. It is a complex portrait of a Protestant church moving into the 21st century."

"Learn more about this film and issues facing all congregations. Visit *The Congregation* website at www.pbs.org. Hear interviews with members of churches, temples, and mosques from around the country."

Edited for Outreach by Bill Santelmann

LUMC Hosts Life Line Community Health Screening

January 17, 2005

Lexington United Methodist Church will host a health screening on Monday, January 17, 2005. Life Line Screening will perform four important screenings tests:

- Carotid Artery Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
- Osteoporosis Screening

This is a prevention program and with early detection, these problems can be treated. The results are sent directly to you and referred back to your own doctor. These screening tests are non-invasive, painless and only take about 10 minutes each.

The cost for the osteoporosis screening test is \$35.00 and the vascular tests are \$45.00 each. Discount packages for multiples tests are available. **Pre-registration is a must. Call now for your appointment at 1-800-407-4557 or for more information.**

Concerns and Celebrations



Congratulations to Chris and Aimee Hanson on the birth of their daughter, Hayden Marie Hanson on October 17!

*Chris and Aimee Hanson
416 Pristine Water Lane
Mary Esther, Florida, 32569*

Congratulations to Dorothy and Gerald McLeod who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Christmas Day, December 25, 2004.



South Asia Emergency: The victims of the unprecedented earthquake and tsunami disaster in southeast Asia need our help in the form of cash to buy supplies locally. Our own United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is active in this relief effort. You may give to "UMCOR Advance #274305" and designate "South Asia Emergency" on the memo line of your check, and leave it in the Sunday Offering plate at LUMC. One hundred percent of your gift goes to relief and recovery efforts. Consult http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/pr.cfm?articleid=2881 on the Methodist work on the southeast Asia disaster.

Recipes from Christmas Pageant Brunch December 19, 2004

French Toast Strata

- 4 oz. day-old French or Italian bread, cut into 3/4 inch cubes (about 4 cups)
- 1/3 c. golden raisins
- 1 pkg (3 oz) cream cheese, cut into 1/4 inch cubes
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 c. milk
- 1/2 c. maple-flavored pancake syrup
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 t. ground cinnamon
- Additional maple-flavored syrup (optional)

Spray 11x7-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Place bread cubes in even layer in prepared dish; sprinkle raisins and cream cheese evenly over bread. Beat eggs in medium bowl with electric mixer at medium speed until blended. Add milk, 1/2 c. pancake syrup and vanilla; mix well. Pour egg mixture evenly over bread mixture. Cover; refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine sugar and cinnamon in small bowl; sprinkle evenly over strata.

Bake, uncovered, 40 to 45 minutes or until puffed, golden brown and knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cut into squares and serve with additional pancake syrup, if desired. Serves 6.

Rainbow Pepper Frittata

- 2 T. melted butter
- 2/3 c. chopped pepper (red, orange, and green for nice color)
- 18 eggs
- 1 c. milk
- 1 c. sour cream (can use low fat)
- 1 t. lemon pepper
- 1/2 t. dillweed
- Preheat oven to 350°F.



Melt butter in frying pan and saute vegetables just until tender.

Spray 9x13 inch pan with oil. Add vegetables with their liquid.

Beat eggs, milk, sour cream, and seasonings in mixer until well blended and frothy. Immediately pour over vegetables. Sprinkle with paprika if desired.

Bake for 30 - 40 minutes or until set. Comes out of oven all puffed and golden brown. Make sure your guests are there to appreciate your efforts. Serves 10 to 12.

Egg/Sausage Strata

Preheat oven to 350°F.

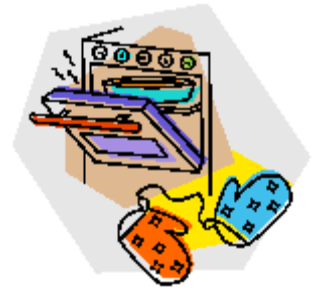
Spray 9x13 inch pan with oil. Layer in baking dish:

- 1 lb. browned sausage
- 8 slices cubed bread
- 8 slices American cheese

Combine:

- 6 eggs
- 1 c. milk
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. dry mustard

Pour over sausage/bread/cheese layers. Bake for 40 minutes or until set. Serves 10 to 12.








Good Neighbors: Hasting School

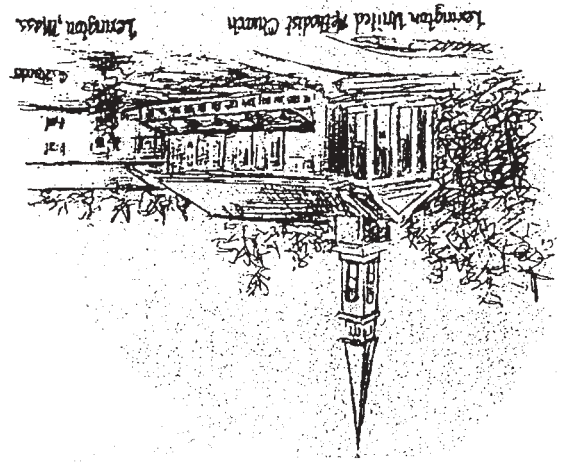
Recently, Pat McClure (co-director of the Methodist Weekday School) and I met with Lynn Stinson (Hastings Elementary School principal) to discuss the use of the church's parking lot by Hasting School parents since Hastings suffers from inadequate parking facilities. It was an excellent conversation and we negotiated plans for parking.

Hastings School will alert us when an evening meeting is planned at the school. We will then reserve the upper level of the church parking lot for members of LUMC and St. John's who have church meetings on the same night. Watch for orange cones and signs to direct you to the designated area. Similarly, plans were negotiated for parking when the MWS and Hastings have simultaneous parking needs. Good communication makes for good neighbors!



January 2005 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 <b style="color: red;">Covenant Sunday <b style="color: red;">Epiphany Celebration <b style="color: red;">Service of Word and Table 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	3 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting (Santelmanns')	4 7:00 pm Coordinating Team 7:30 pm Not Quite Middle Agers	5  7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 7:30 pm Worship Committee	6 <b style="color: red;">Epiphany Noon Interfaith Clergy Association	7 7:00 pm Youth Lock In	8
9 <b style="color: red;">Baptism of the Lord Sunday 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Trustees' Meeting 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	10 10:00 am Bible and Bagels 7:00 pm Opening Conversation <i>Creating LUMC's Future</i>	11 7:30 pm Christian Ed. Meeting	12  7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 7:30 pm Finance Mtg. 8:00 pm Ad. Council	13	14	15 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Board of Church and Society (Eliot, ME)
16 <b style="color: red;">Human Relations Sunday <b style="color: red;">Second Sunday after the Epiphany 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 - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	17 <b style="color: red;">Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <b style="color: red;">Office Closed	18 6:30 pm Reconciling Ministries Committee (N. Andover) 7:30 pm Not Quite Middle Agers	19  7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service	20 7:30 pm Prayer Workshop: Meditation	21	22 9:00 – 11:00 Lexington Food Pantry 3:00-6:00 pm New England Annual Conf. Day of Solidarity (LUMC; Bangor, ME; E. Providence, RI; Springfield, MA)
23 <b style="color: red;">Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 2:00 pm Opening Conversation <i>Creating LUMC's Future</i> 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	24 <b style="color: red;">February Newsletter Deadline 10:00 am Bible and Bagels 7:30 pm Book Club (Frasers')	25 7:30 pm Corporation Meeting	26  7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 7:30 pm SPRC Mtg.	27	28 12:30 Newsletter Collation	29
30 <b style="color: red;">Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 4); 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection	31 10:00 am Bible and Bagels	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f7fa;"> <b style="color: red;">Important Dates to Save in Your Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 10, 7:00 pm: Opening Conversation January 22, 3:00-6:00 pm: Day of Solidarity - Reconciling Ministries January 23, 2:00 pm: Opening Conversation </div>				

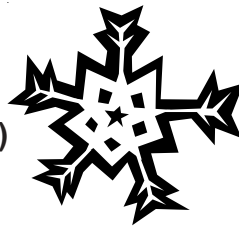


RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 - Gr. 4)
Youth Study (Gr. 5 - 8)
- 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall
- 11:00 am Adult Study
- 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal



January 2005 Newsletter

Rev. Susan J. Morrison, Pastor
Andrea Laux, Christian Education Director
Pastoral Intern
Daniel Roihl, Music Director/Organist
David Babbidge, Sexton
Allyson Printz, Office Administrator

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

**Creating LUMC's Future
Opening Conversations**

Monday, January 10, 7:00-9:00 pm
Sunday, January 23, 2:00-4:00 pm

