

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

July/August 2005

Vol. 53, No. 7

From the Pastor's Study...

Dear Friends,

"What we call the beginning is often the end; And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from," so begins the last section of T.S. Eliot's poem, *Little Gidding*. This cycle of beginnings and endings is familiar to all of us. As members of the United Methodist Church family, we understand this cycle intimately as appointment season ushers all of us into a time of transition – a time of letting go and saying good-bye, and a time of welcoming and embracing over the course of just a few weeks.

As I pack to join you in Lexington, I am excited about this new beginning. For me it is an expectant beginning – full of hope, joy and excitement. Yet, my delight in moving is tempered by my love for those I leave behind. I am certain you are experiencing similar things: excitement and trepidation, joy and anxiety.

During the last ten years, your journey with Rev. Susan has been deeply transformational. It is a journey that has shaped and defined LUMC in concrete and affirming ways. It is a journey rooted in unconditional love and grounded in infinite grace. It is a journey that is daunting for me. However, through your outreach and warm welcome, I feel included. No matter where our journey leads, I know as I begin my journey in Lexington that I have remarkable companions. I am ready to learn from you and work with you on this journey of faith and action.

On Sunday, June 19, as Rev. Susan said good-bye to you and left the mantle of leadership and ministry for me, which I will pick up on July 3, we were reminded that "to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." In this time of transition – this time of beginnings and endings, we are encouraged by Eliot's words, "We shall not cease from exploration; And the end of all our exploring; Will be to arrive where we started; And know the place for the first time."

Although times of transition are never easy, it is my hope and prayer that we will grow together in community. As we explore and journey together, as we embrace new people, new possibilities, new hope and new beginnings, I am delighted to have such great companions on the journey of faith.

Peace,



Rev. Hope N. Luckie

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FutureSearch Report

July 2005

Meeting of LUMC and St. John's

The LUMC FutureSearch Steering Committee met with representatives from St. John's Korean UMC in May to inform them about our FutureSearch process and initiate discussions about alternatives to respond to trends that LUMC sees. Both sides agreed that we do not intend to merge LUMC and St. John's into a single congregation. However, we did want to work in partnership to determine viable responses to these trends, so that the options chosen will have minimal impact on each of our partners. Both sides reiterated their strong desire to stay at 2600 Massachusetts Ave.

Rev. Susan presented background information on the trends we were seeing, especially the financial trends. Elder Kenny Lee of St. John's shared information about how St. John's is responding to the events of last year to rebuild their congregation; Rev. Rha said that St. John's is "poised to grow."

We closed the meeting in prayer, and agreed to hold another meeting to continue discussions in August.

Guidance for Taskforce Leaders and Members

Are you leading a taskforce but need some help getting organized? The Steering Committee has compiled materials to help you. Kathy Parks, of the Steering Committee, will be emailing the leaders of the taskforces to provide these materials electronically by the end of June. The materials Kathy will email out are:

- ♦ Written records from all Open Conversations and the FutureSearch weekend;
- ♦ List of Unresolved items from the FutureSearch weekend;
- ♦ Keith Herndon's Fall 2004 presentation on Trends impacting LUMC (which kicked off the FutureSearch process);
- ♦ Complete notes of the April 10th report out from the 2010 Taskforces;
- ♦ Sample agenda and meeting minute template (MSWord format);
- ♦ Spreadsheet listing the current taskforces, their leaders and Steering Committee contact.

Taskforce leaders, please watch your Inboxes!

Kathy has also been commissioned by the Steering Committee to provide team leadership assistance to Taskforces (how to run a meeting, how to

July and August 2005 Worship Schedule

- 9:15 am Praise Music**
9:30 am Worship
Summer Sunday School*
10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall

Please come on July 3 to welcome Rev. Hope Luckie on her first Sunday at LUMC!

Rev. Luckie will lead Worship during July and August except during her vacation time when lay leaders will lead worship.

Communion will be celebrated in Worship on July 3 and August 7 and served in the library at 9:00 am on July 17 and August 21.

* There will be no Summer Sunday School on July 3.

set realistic goals for your team for the year, how to publicize your team's successes, building consensus, conflict resolution, measuring progress, etc.). If you feel you need help in any of these areas, please contact Kathy at kjparks@us.ibm.com or 781-861-9686.

Next All-Church Meeting to hear Status Updates from the 2010 Taskforces

We will hold our next All-Church meeting in September 2005, where all 2010 Taskforces will be expected to provide status updates on their progress.

Taskforce Updates

Several of the 2010 Taskforces have combined missions and members. The new list of taskforces are:

2010 Taskforce	Chairperson
Growth and Membership Diversity	Rae Lavalla
Outreach	Bill
Santelmann	
Web Team ("Communication")	Kathy Parks
Fun Cluster	Linda Rings
Finance; Partners; and Steering Committee	Keith Herndon
Children/Youth/Young Adult and Intergenerational Program	Clint Cowsett
Worship and Music	Kevin Herndon, Smoki Fraser, and Mason
Internal Organization	Becky Linton

Westboro Baptist Church Visits Lexington with Message of Hate

A kindergarten parent at Estabrook School in Lexington was arrested for trespassing because he would not leave the school over the presence of books that depicted various images of family life to illustrate the variety of family forms that exist in our community. This made national headlines that resulted in the picket by Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) from near Topeka, Kansas of several houses of worship, the elementary school, and the Lexington High School graduation. WBC has made approximately 2200 demonstrations of hate over recent years condemning homosexuality. They picketed LUMC just before our worship service on Sunday morning, June 5.

Because WBC informed the Lexington Police of their intentions, all affected parties were notified. The Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association organized a planned response to the WBC by creating a team of non-violent responders. About 150 people from various houses of worship were trained by a facilitator from the Fellowship of Reconciliation for nonviolent discipline in public witness. Since LUMC was the first to be picketed on Sunday morning, over 80 trained persons met early in Martin Hall for prayer.

About 35 trained parishioners and community representatives from throughout Lexington met at each site to act as a "shield of loving kindness" separating the parishioners of the picketed churches from the WBC protesters. The group held hands, wore light shirts, had a sign of their house of worship on their backs, which faced the WBC, and stood in silence. Rabbi Howard Jaffe of Temple Isaiah and co-chairperson of the Interfaith Clergy Association helped hold the "Lexington Interfaith - United in Love" sign at LUMC. He stated that while the separate faith communities may have separate views on homosexuality, all were united in acting positively against the hateful messages of the WBC.

LUMC is an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist congregation fully welcoming and accepting all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons.

- Ken Kreutziger

For additional reports of the June 5 picketing, see *Reaching Out* on page 6.



Bob Miner, Rabbi Howard Jaffe, Ken and Louise Kreutziger standing at the front door of LUMC during the picketing



With backs turned toward the picketers on Massachusetts Ave., Bill Santelmann and Janet Melcher participate in the Shield of Loving Kindness (Bill is third from the left, Janet is fourth from the left)

Finance Corner

Total 2005 receipts to LUMC through 5/31/05:

\$ 123,978

Total 2005 expenditures by LUMC through 5/31/05:

\$ 104,189

Total 2005 expenditures budgeted through 5/31/05:

\$ 107,580

I thought you would like to know that as part of the FutureSearch process, I have been working on a 5 year budget projection for LUMC that goes out to the year 2010. This is in connection with my role on the Finance Task 2010 Task Force that was set up at the Future Search weekend in March. I hope to present this to the whole LUMC community later this summer or fall. If you would like a sneak peek, please let me know.

May you all enjoy a happy, content and blessing-filled summer.

-Keith Herndon
Chair, Finance Committee

FutureSearch FAQ (frequently asked questions)

What is the Future Search Steering Committee?

The FutureSearch Steering Committee exists to support the 2010 Taskforces in their work, as well as keep the Vision for LUMC in the forefront of our activities. The Steering Committee provides guidance to the taskforces, helps resolve problems, and ensures that the lines of communication among the 2010 taskforces and LUMC committees are open. If you need assistance in your taskforce, or have questions, please contact any of the members of the Committee: Mackie Corson, Smoki Fraser, Keith Herndon, Becky Linton, Kathy Parks

What's the difference between a Taskforce and a Committee?

The 2010 Taskforces brainstorm on ideas to move us toward our vision for 2010. They bring those ideas to the existing LUMC Committees (Worship, Christian Ed, Outreach, Finance, etc.) and the committees determine whether the ideas fit into the program for that committee for this year. The existing committees perform the business of the church; the taskforces provide ideas. Taskforces can assist in implementing the ideas if the existing committee agrees to this. Otherwise, they are not expected to implement their ideas, but to work through the existing committees to get things done.

What if the membership of the Taskforce is the same as the Committee? Can we just roll them into one group, one meeting?

The Taskforces were intended to provide out-of-the-box ideas for moving the church toward our vision for 2010. The Committees are busy performing the business of the church. If you feel that your group can accomplish both, that is up to your Committee and Taskforce: whatever your group feels is reasonable. You will still be expected to provide a FutureSearch Taskforce report at the All-Church meeting(s) on our progress. *Suggestion:* If you want to hold one meeting, set a clear agenda for covering Committee business (in the first half, for example) and cover Taskforce business in the second.

Words of Thanks from Susan and Jay Morrison

Words simply cannot express our thanks for your farewell wishes and wonderful party! From beginning to end, Sunday night, June 19 will be among our fondest memories. The fabulous bar-b-que, planned and prepared by Chef Jim Hogan (and amazing kitchen crew!); the tender, hilarious, sometimes embarrassing "testimonies" by so many; the choir's rendition of *Go Out with Joy*; the beautiful handcrafted rainbow stole and generous purse; and the decade worth of memories captured on the big screen by Rainer von Saleski made for a perfect evening. We know that many hands and hearts were responsible for the farewell party, but special thanks go to Bryon Lavalla and members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee including Keith Herndon, Bob (and helpmate, Linda) Miner, Julie Barnette, Smoki Fraser, Helen Einstein, Carol Phelan and Bill Santelmann for all of their thoughtfulness and efforts.

That wonderful hymn, *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* uses words that come closest to our sentiments. Prayerfully and with grateful hearts, we echo those words:

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

God the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,

How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

To you we say Awe! Praise! Grace! Thanks! Joy! knowing that Lexington UMC will always be Home!

With our love always,

- Jay and Susan

See page 5 for photographs of the June 19 Farewell Celebration!



Communion Table during Worship
For all that has been, Thanks!
For all that will be, Yes!
- Dag Hammarskjold

Snapshot Collage of Farewell Celebration for Susan and Jay Morrison

Worship and Celebration BBQ June 19, 2005



Gwen, Ethan and Theo Lavalla



Keith Herndon and Rev. Susan



A silly song by the Senior Choir



Rebecca Morrison and David Hinton, Susan and Jay Morrison, Jeremy and Priscilla Morrison



Jim Hogan, Bob Miner and Becky Linton



Jean and Bill Santelmann, Muriel and Al Landers, Leila Beck, Alma Anderson, Mary Driscoll and Muriel Grimes



Janis and Dan Roihl

REACHING OUT. . .

HELP REBUILD HOUSES DESTROYED BY THE TSUNAMI

The Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association is supporting a town-wide fundraiser to build homes for tsunami victims who are still living in tents.

The project is a partnership with MIT and the Prajnopaya Foundation, a Buddhist-run interfaith organization, which is already building houses in Sri Lanka. The homes are built with volunteer labor using native materials. A house has been specially designed by MIT students to better withstand a tsunami. It will provide a family of 4-5 with safe, attractive shelter for only \$1200. An interfaith community center for public gatherings can be constructed for \$4000. It is our goal to build several homes and a "Lexington Community Center" which will have a plaque connecting it with our town.

You can participate in this project by writing a check to your church, synagogue, or mosque with "Tsunami Home" on the memo line. Donations may be sent to Mr. Narain Bhatia, LICA Treasurer, 8 Nickerson Road, Lexington, MA, 02421. Checks from your community should be made out to the Prajnopaya Foundation with "Tsunami Home" on the memo line.

There are no administrative costs involved in the Prajnopya Project. 100% of funds we send go to the actual building. For a picture of the house and more details about this aid effort go to: <http://senseable.mit.edu/tsunami-prajnopaya/>

Contact: Judy Brain <revbrain@aol.com>
Narain Bhatia <nbhatia@verizon.net>

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING "SIMPLE MEAL"

A fundraising "simple meal" will be held at Pilgrim Church, 55 Coolidge Ave. on Thursday, July 21 at 6:00 pm. A modest meal similar to those eaten in Sri Lanka will be served and participants will be asked to donate what they might pay for a restaurant dinner. Children are welcomed. There will be a continuous slide show of the building project.

FRED PHELPS AND THE WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH

When Susan first announced that there was a group of people, calling themselves a church, coming to demonstrate in Lexington because of their beliefs about homosexuality, I could not have conceived of the hate-filled rhetoric that spewed from their mouths and signs and songs. However, I knew from the moment Susan said we needed members to be part of an interfaith response that I had to go.

Since it was necessary to be trained in nonviolence to be part of the Shield of Loving Kindness, I attended the Thursday night session at Temple Isaiah. It was amazing to see all the people from every possible faith group and also those who were there without a religious connection coming together to make a statement about the Sunday event. We learned a little about Fred Phelps and his family members and saw a short clip of how the technique worked in the days of desegregation and then had to practice being both a member of the Phelps group and a member of the response group who would have to listen to all the ugliness and yet not respond to it.

Our leader explained that we would be doing exactly the opposite of what they wanted. Instead of a confrontation, we would simply turn our backs on the people from the WBC (Westboro Baptist Church) and think loving thoughts or silently sing special hymns in our heads to keep all the hate out. At the end, we signed up for the church at which we wished to witness.

When Sunday morning June 5 arrived, we met at LUMC and had a prayer and encouragement and then went outside of LUMC to take up our first post. Sure enough, right on time at 9:00 am, the Phelps contingent arrived with their children and their banners which said such things as "God Hates America," "AIDS is God's Curse," and my personal favorite, "God Hates You!" We were excoriated and had to listen to such harangues as - "It would have been better for your souls if you had stayed home and wallowed in your own crap this morning rather than come here." Pastor Susan was equated with a prostitute and we were told she was misleading us into hell. It was not easy to listen for a half hour while the man went up and down the line - even picking on certain people - (our own Bill Santelmann among them).

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REACHING OUT. . .

JANET MELCHER WRITES ABOUT HER WBC EXPERIENCE

If I had not been trained to stand hand in hand and fill myself with love, I would have burst out in anger. One woman even sang a song called *God Hates America* to the tune of *God Bless America*! The saddest thing to see was the children carrying signs that were demeaning to their fellow human beings. At the end of the half hour, the Phelps group went on to their next stop and many from our congregation went in to our service. Janet Melcher and I decided to go on to First Baptist Church where the group was scheduled to "perform" at 10:00. Since there were many from other congregations at our church I felt that I needed to support the effort at another church.

Witnessing on Massachusetts Ave. at First Baptist was much more public than at LUMC and cars would come by and people would make comments to the Phelps. I heard one person say, "Shame on you!" Several people joined us and stood in silent witness too. A young man came by with bottles of water for everyone since it was such a hot day. When Rev. Ken Swenson, pastor of the Lexington First Baptist Church offered water to the Phelps, they refused to accept it.

After the session at LUMC and at First Baptist, we debriefed with the person who was the leader of each team. A woman who identified herself as a lesbian said that while this action was uplifting and it was encouraging to see so many people taking a stand, that in everyday life it was really still very scary to be a lesbian and hear people make comments and never know if they were going to hurt her physically in some way or other.

The experience was an eye opener in many ways. Before this, I did not know of such a group and their power to hate. I was also made more aware of the influence of the Internet in being able to get ANY and EVERY kind of message across.

Perhaps the churches of the world need to use the Internet more to get out messages of love and acceptance that we believe Christ intends for the world.

As Rev. Ken Swenson, the Baptist minister said, "The only thing we have in common with them (the Phelps) is the name Baptist. There are 40 baptists sects/traditions. We are ashamed that they are one of them."

If one town such as Lexington, can come together and so lovingly make a stand against evil, why can't other towns and states and nations unite against not only this but other evils as well?

by Linda Rings

I was honored to be part of the "Shield of Loving Kindness" on Sunday, June 5. I felt very close to the Lexington community and the religious congregants from Lexington and surrounding communities.

Our Interfaith Clergy Association members are to be congratulated on their planning and execution of our response when "HATRED" visited our town on June 5.

Holding my friend Bill Santelmann's hand and looking up at Bob Miner, Ken and Louise Kreutziger, and Rabbi Howard Jaffe from Temple Isaiah holding the Interfaith Clergy sign, while HATRED was being spewed behind my back, I felt at peace and proud to be part of the Lexington Community and Lexington UMC.

by Janet Melcher

NICARAGUA NEWS

Thanks to you, we have raised \$10,775 for our work in Nicaragua. However, we are still \$5,000 short of the goal. Remember:

- \$120 a year (\$10 a month) pays for a student to go to high school for a year.
- \$840 (\$70 a month) pays for a year of college.
- \$60 a month supports a sewing program for women to learn a trade.
- \$225 a month pays for medical care for many members of the community.
- \$117.50 a month pays for materials, etc. for the Mana School

Can you support a month or two of a program? Every dollar helps.

**It's never too late
To participate.
Your pledge or your gift
Gives others a lift.**

Thank you for your generosity!

Linda Rings,
Chairperson Nicaragua Subcommittee

For the Outreach Committee by Bill Santelmann

Health Care Presented 11th Hour Adult Education

Jay Morrison and Ken Kreutziger, as members of the Outreach Committee, presented two sessions the last two Sundays in May as the beginning of our church's exploration of the topic for our church's education. On the first week, Sunday May 22, we addressed the issues surrounding health care in the U.S. Questions were answered such as: Why the renewed interest in the uninsured? Why is health coverage so important? Who is uninsured? How do Americans get health coverage? Statistics were summarized through use of overhead charts and graphs. Myths of the health care system were presented along with their corresponding facts. For instance, a myth is that "the system ain't broke, we don't need to fix it"; the fact is "45 million US citizens are uninsured and 90 million are underinsured."

Jay began the second session by summarizing the approaches to covering the uninsured. They include: Employer mandates (employer contribution requirements); Individual mandates (everyone required to have some basic form of health insurance like the requirement to have auto insurance); Expansions of existing public programs; Tax credits; Tax-financed health care system (single-payer approach much like the Canadian system). The basic pro and con to each approach were covered.

Ken concluded the second session by covering the three health care bills that will be before the legislature this year. Governor Romney's bill has the objective to insure everyone in the state by 2009. This would be accomplished by lowering the cost of basic coverage. Romney claims that his plan, called "Commonwealth Care" would cost about half the current cost of existing private insurance by offering less comprehensive coverage. Critics contend that these policies are likely to still be too expensive for some people and that coverage will be severely degraded.

Senate President Travaglini's bill, according to *The Boston Globe*, is a more "far-reaching" plan and "goes further" than the governor's. This plan is projected to bring down the cost for coverage by having the state pick up catastrophic costs. *The Globe*, in its editorial, postulates that the subsidy for catastrophic care would probably not be enough and calls for "independent assessments" to determine whether a significant number of the uninsured would be attracted to either Romney's or Travaglini's proposals. Both state that health care reform does not require new taxes, an employer mandate or expensive state subsidies.

Health Care for All (HFA) is the sponsor of the third bill. McDonough, its executive director, contends, "You can't solve this problem without new rev-

enues on the table and without some requirement" of employers. HFA proposal is comprehensive coverage for all residents of Massachusetts and is "near-universal coverage" but is not a "single-payer" approach due to assessed political realities that such a system is not politically possible at this time. But new revenues are needed for such a comprehensive approach, which will also have some financial requirement of employers.

The potential exists for continued study of health care in the next church year.

-Ken Kreutziger

LUMC Planning Meeting Sets Goals for 2005-06

On Wednesday evening June 8, LUMC held an all-church planning meeting.

We began with prayer and singing and then had a long discussion about what we were most proud of in the prior 12 months. It turned out we have far too many accomplishments to mention - the list filled three flip-chart pages!

We then began a heart felt and honest discussion about what goals we wanted to focus on for the next 12 months and we came up with the following three.

- ◆ Continue to energize the FutureSearch process
- ◆ Have committees re-evaluate programs and activities.
- ◆ Spiritual formation and development: How does the work of the committees contribute to doing God's work?

The first goal states the importance of firing up the ongoing Future Search process. We have put so much work into this area in the past 12 months we need to make sure that it continues to burn bright. There was some concern that the 2010 task forces were bogging down. It was hoped that the Future Search steering committee could do something to encourage the task forces to stay focused.

The second goal was about looking at the preparation effort required to organize and conduct an activity or program and balance that effort against the number of people that participate in it. Is the activity or program worth continuing? This goal was agreed to due to concerns that the committees should be working to maximize their effectiveness.

The third goal was meant to remind us that as a church we should keep the spiritual aspect of our work in mind when we meet in committees. It was emphasized that this included all committees, even the finance committee.

During the coming year, Ad. Council will have these three goals on its agenda every time it meets to insure that we are making progress every month.

- Keith Herndon

New England Annual Conference 2005 Highlight

Bishop Weaver Presents His Agenda for the “Vision Walkers” of the NE Conference

On Thursday afternoon, June 9, Bishop Peter Weaver brought his work agenda to the floor of Annual Conference. Divided into the five critical issues of the New England Annual Conference, Weaver outlined his hopes and plans for the coming year and for the quadrennium. Below is a summary of those plans:

Spiritual Life

1. This year, every church in the New England Conference will have some sort of a spiritual life group for prayer and Biblical study.
2. We will challenge every charge to be sure its pastor has the resources, time, and encouragement from lay members to attend events such as Pastors' Assembly, Spiritual Life Academy, Walk to Emmaus, or other events designed to strengthen the spiritual life of the pastor. In addition, the church will be sure the pastor has the support and opportunity to be there.
3. 2006 will be the 210 anniversary of the establishment of the New England Conference. Bishop Weaver proclaims January 2006 as a month of weekly prayer and fasting for the future of God's work in New England.

Evangelism and Church Growth

1. A Congregational Development position is being created and an office will be provided in the Lawrence office. This person will help to start at least 10 new congregations by the end of this quadrennium.
2. In the fall, we will start district days, focusing on creative 21st century outreach evangelism, looking at the spiritual inward journey, and the social justice outward journey; on Biblical, theological, practical strategies. These days will be for laity and clergy. We will not only study, but will practice outreach by the end of each of these days.
3. A Conference School on Congregational Development will be created.

Diversity

1. Planning and preparation are underway for anti-racism groups beginning in December, and at least two weekends every year. There will also be accountability groups dealing with racism and white privilege in our world, in our churches, and in our hearts.
2. The cabinet is committed to support, and follow up with others, development and implementation of cross-racial and cross-cultural pastorates.
3. We will work with national United Methodist plans: African/American, Hispanic, Asian, Native

American, as well as our covenants with Western Angola and Nicaragua.

Equipping Leadership(Transformational Leadership)

1. Broaden and strengthen lay speaking and lay speaking academies in all the districts, including academies for young people and teenagers.
2. We will continue work with the Board of Ordained Ministry around leadership of clergy and clergy effectiveness.
3. Social holiness leadership – our Wesleyan movement — is based on personal and social holiness. We are in need of social holiness bold leadership. We need to be on the streets, and in the capitol buildings, and in the principalities and powers — to turn thin paper into thick action. Bishop Weaver will call a summit in the fall to create a way to assist United Methodists to be there when action is needed.

Stewardship

1. We will continue the training of stewardship consultants and with the “Good Sense” seminars.
2. There are “Amazing Grace” success stories about the silent phase of the new Capital Campaign. Seven pilot congregations have already been at work. The “Together for Tomorrow Campaign” will soon go forward across the conference.
3. In consultation with the Council on Finance & Administration, we will begin - starting in the fall - the “Bishop's Financial Summit.” It will last until Annual Conference 2006. In this summit:
 - We will work with Mission Shares and Apportionments to bring them to the next level
 - We will work with the budget process to be sure it is in concert with our mission and vision
 - We will address the “big bears in the woods” – increasing health care costs and other issues that we must face.

We do these things together, as “Vision Walkers” - God is with us.

LUMC Book Club

Summertime is a great time to read a good book! *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon is the Book Group's choice for its September 12 meeting. The book is the interesting tale of an autistic 15 year old who solves a murder mystery of sorts.



Christian Education News

Summer Sunday School Begins June 26

Our Summer Sunday School for elementary age children begins on Sunday June 26.

Our curriculum comes from the *Seasons in the Spirit* curriculum. This is the curriculum used by the Youth class during the school year. The *Seasons in the Spirit* curriculum utilizes storytelling, similar to *Godly Play*, to teach children about God, Jesus, and our faith. In addition to storytelling, children will spend time hearing scripture verses, singing, and doing projects to help them find the meaning in scripture.

Sunday School will be taught in the *Godly Play* classroom, room 22. The schedule is:

Sunday	Lesson	Teacher
June 26, 2005	Offers of Grace	Kathy Parks
July 3, 2005	No Sunday School	N/A
July 10, 2005	God's Extravagance	Becky Linton
July 17, 2005	Eager Waiting	Laurie Fahey
July 24, 2005	Such Love	Andrea Laux
July 31, 2005	More than Enough	Rae Lavalla
August 7, 2005	Stepping Out	Lara Anthony
August 14, 2005	How Very Good	Kurt Gunter
August 21, 2005	Created for Community	Kathy Parks
August 28, 2005	Spirit Led	Andrea Laux

NOTE: There will be no Summer Sunday School on July 3. Children will remain in worship to welcome Rev. Hope Luckie to LUMC.



Children's Sunday 2005

On June 12, 2005, LUMC held its annual Children's Sunday service, to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of the children in Sunday School this year, as well as to honor and thank the many volunteers who gave of their time and themselves.

This year, we also realized one of the common visions articulated during the FutureSearch weekend in March, which was to have the children and youth more integrated into the worship service. This Sunday, the Youth and Children *were* the worship service. The Youth and *Godly Play* classes wrote all the prayers, chose the hymns, and selected the scripture readings.

The theme of the service was "Children as a Blessing," and the Hebrew scripture readings were about Abraham and Sarah, discovering they were to be parents of the Great Family. Becky Linton reflected on her son, Andy, using the language of *Godly Play* to express how she too felt like Sarah in the day's reading. We also celebrated Dan Roihl's service as Choir Director and Children's Choir director, with the Children's and Senior Choirs singing during the service. At the end of the service, we celebrated graduating senior Kenny Sutton with blessings and a new Bible.

Photos from the Children's Sunday Service on page 11.



Seeking Greeters and Ushers!

Ushers and greeters are needed for July and August. Contact Jackie Sutton (781-275-8797) if you are available.



Hospitality Committee Looking for Hosts!

The Hospitality Committee needs volunteers to provide refreshments during Fellowship time after service during the Summer. Please contact Smoki Fraser (781-862-7394) if you are available.





Carol Phelan and Children's Choir: James Swanson, Andy Linton, Ethan Lavalla, Caroline Fahey, Grace Fahey, Cortney Corson, Chloe Briskin. Also pictured: Dan Roihl (playing piano)



James Swanson reads the Call to Worship



Kenny Sutton reads the Epistle Lesson



Chris Herndon reads the Gospel Lesson. Also pictured: Kenny Sutton



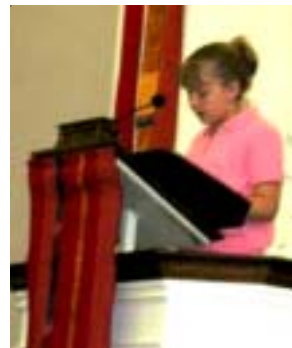
Henry Herndon reads the Hebrew Scripture Reading

Children's Sunday

June 12, 2005



Ashleigh Tyus read the Prayer of Confession. Also pictured: Chris Herndon and Kenny Sutton.



Katie Fahey reads the Prayer for Illumination



The Children's Choir: Back row: Ethan Lavalla (with tambourine), Caroline Fahey, Grace Fahey, Chloe Briskin, Cortney Corson. Front row: Andy Linton, Gwen Lavalla



Jonathan Gunter offered the Words of Assurance. Also pictured: Ashleigh Tyus



Dan Roihl and the Children's Choir performing during the worship service. Also pictured: Laurie Fahey (playing piano).



Becky Linton offered her reflection on *Children as a Blessing*



Ben Beckwith, Andrea Laux and Rev. Susan at Ben and Andrea's wedding in Ohio on June 3, 2005



The Lexington Delegation: Chris, Aimee and Hayden Hanson, Eric Shank, Andrea Laux, Ben Beckwith, Susan and Jay Morrison in Ohio for Ben and Andrea's wedding

Letters, Notes, Emails

On Pentecost Sunday, May 15, beautiful new Pentecost hangings adorned the chancel area. They were designed and created by Cynthia Good and given in loving memory of Alma Aalerud by her sons Alan and Ken. The following note was received from them:

Dear Susan and Cynthia:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to support the Lexington United Methodist Church in this way. Our mother, Alma, would have been delighted to help in this effort.

- Alan and Ken Aalerud



Ms. Morrison:

On behalf of all of us at Hancock, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support in front of our church during last week's demonstration. We know that those who worked on this project made a significant time commitment both in preparation and on Sunday.

It was so uplifting to experience your warm and welcoming presence after walking through the verbal harassment of the picketers. The spiritual embrace we received on the "other side" was a refreshing and needed contrast. Also, your willingness to work with the Hancock congregation on the concept of a "welcome path" was greatly appreciated.

Last but certainly not least, it was also wonderful to be able to share the power of Lexington's vibrant community of faith with our youth, a number of whom were being confirmed on Sunday. For them and for all of us, your presence and support helped reaffirm our appreciation of the importance of a strong interfaith community in Lexington. Please feel free to share this letter of thanks with your members.

Sincerely,

- Nariman Behravesh, Moderator; Thomas Ransohoff, Senior Deacon; Constance Devereux, Senior Deacon

Wedding Invitation from John Kramer



LUMC's former organist, John Kramer, and Elizabeth Lintz invite LUMC friends and members to attend their wedding ceremony on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at 5:00 pm. It will be held at the Community Methodist Church in Sunapee, NH. Rev. Susan will officiate.

LUMC Yard and Bake Sale set for October 15

Save the date and start collecting your "valuables!" Give jewelry to Smoki Fraser to repair/clean for the yard sale. Contact Keith Herndon anytime day (617-563-7886) or night (781-863-9998) or via email (keith.herndon@fmr.com) to reserve your volunteering opportunity!



Summer Office Hours

Beginning July 5, Allyson Printz will keep office hours on two days a week. Call first to be sure she is in! She will be on vacation from July 11 - 22. Regular office hours begin again on August 29.

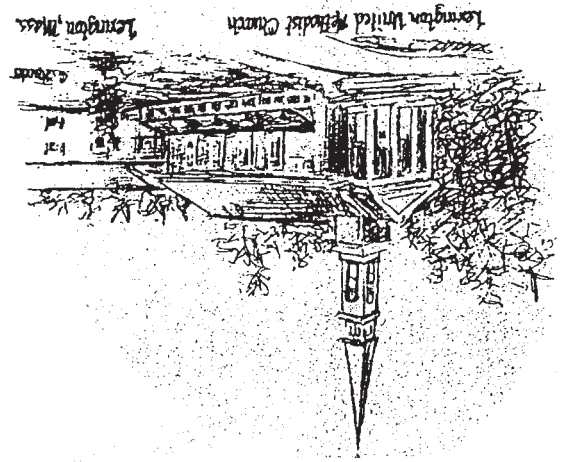
July 2005 - Lexington United Methodist Church

calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Service of Word and Table 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Rev. Hope Luckie's first Sunday </div>	4 Independence Day (office closed)	5	6 7:30 pm Worship Committee	7 7:30 pm 2010 Web Taskforce	8	9
10 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Communion in the library 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	25	26 7:30 pm Corporation Meeting	27	28	29	30 9:00 – 11:00 Lexington Food Pantry
31 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries <div style="background-color: #FF00FF; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection </div>						

August 2005 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 7:30 pm 2010 Web Taskforce	5	6
<p style="color: green; margin: 0;">7 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Service of Word and Table</p> <p>9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p style="color: green; margin: 0;">14 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries</p>	15	16	17 7:30 pm 2010 Finance Taskforce	18	19	20
<p style="color: green; margin: 0;">21 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:00 am Communion in the library 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27 9:00 – 11:00 Lexington Food Pantry
<p style="color: green; margin: 0;">28 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship Summer Sunday School (K-6) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries</p> <p style="background-color: magenta; color: white; padding: 2px;">Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection</p>	29 September Newsletter Deadline	30	31	12:30 pm Newsletter Collation	Office Closed	



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Our Summer Sunday Program

- 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care
9:30 am Worship
Summer Sunday School (K - Gr. 6)
10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall

July/August 2005 Newsletter



Rev. Hope N. Luckie, Minister

Andrea Laux, Christian Education Director

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


Come on July 3 to welcome
Rev. Hope Luckie on her first
Sunday at LUMC!
