

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

July-August 2010

Newsletter

Vol. 58, No. 7

From the Pastor's Study...

Mighty Prophets

Summer is a great time for relaxing and reading. And when the temperature passes 90 degrees, that's about all I care to be doing. If you're at all like I am, you probably have a summer reading list all set up. I usually try to mix in some light reading with my more serious studies.

This summer the worship lectionary includes readings from the Hebrew scriptures by four major prophets: Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Each of these figures spoke God's judgment against the injustice of their times. Each pointed to the destructive consequences of failure to keep God's covenant and attend to the needs of the poor and marginalized in society. And it was only after these consequences were realized that anyone took notice of their message. For the ancient Jewish people it became a way of understanding why horrible things had happened to them. By listening to these voices of the past, we can attune our ears to the prophetic messages of our own time, joining with them in protest and action for the maintenance of God's holy covenant.

On my summer reading list are two books which explore the lives and witness of the prophets of ancient Israel. The first is a classic which I have always intended to tackle: *The Prophets*, by Abraham Joshua Heschel (publ. Perennial Classics paperback, 2001), the great rabbinic 20th century scholar. It runs 700 pages, but the relevant portions are in the first part. The second is *The Prophetic Imagination*, by Walter Brueggemann, 2nd ed., (Fortress Press, 2002). Brueggemann (in a much shorter 150 pages) reflects on the impact of the prophetic tradition on the consciousness of Jesus of Nazareth. I'm hoping that between the two works I'll discover a mine of insights which I can apply to my sermons this summer.

So I am inviting you to join me in reading the lectionary passages for worship which are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. If you are especially ambitious perhaps you would like to join me in reading one (or both!) of the books on my list. Both works are available at amazon.com at a reasonable price, and are likely in on the shelves of area community libraries. Together we can augment our awareness of the Biblical texts as a community and collectively embrace the vision which has fed the church's passion for social justice through the centuries. Let's give it a try. And have a happy summer!

Richard Capron, pastor


July-August 2010 Worship

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

July 4 - Holy Communion

Galatians 6:1-10; Luke 10: 1-11
Sermon: *The Harvest*



July 11 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7: 7-17; Luke 10: 25-37
Sermon: *The Plumb Line*

July 18 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8: 1-12; Luke 10:38-42
Sermon: *Summer Fruit*

July 25 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection

Hosea 1: 2-10; Luke 11: 1-13
Sermon: *The Misbegotten*



August 1 - Holy Communion

Hosea 11:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
Sermon: *The Divine Anguish*

August 8 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20; Luke 12: 32-40
Sermon: *Of Solemn Assemblies*

August 15 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5: 1-7; Luke 12: 49-56
Sermon: *Wild Grapes*

August 22 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Luke 13: 10-17
Sermon: *The Divine Commission*

August 29 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection

Jeremiah 2: 4-13; Luke 14: 1, 7-14
Sermon: *Changing Gods*

LUMC Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, July 20 at 1:30 pm at Lexington UMC. The group is reading *The Kitchen House: A Novel* by Kathleen Grisson. Contact Smoki Fraser (781-862-7394) for details.

Condolences

Condolences to Al Quinzani and family and friends of Vivian Quinzani who died on Monday, June 14, 2010. A memorial service was held on Friday, June 25 at Brookhaven. Notes and cards may be sent to Al Quinzani at 1010 Waltham Street, Apt. 235, Lexington, MA, 02421-8062.

A funeral service will be held for Annie Bursey on July 6, 2010 at Douglass Funeral Home. Annie was a charter member of Lexington UMC and, at age 95, our oldest living member. Most of her life she lived on Reed Street in town, but for the past two years she was a resident at Pine Knoll Nursing Center.

Lexington Food Pantry

The work at the food pantry doesn't stop with the arrival of summer. Volunteers are needed for July and August. This is especially important because many of the weekly volunteers will also need their vacation time. Thanks to Ken and Louise Kreutziger for volunteering in June. Along with our friends from the Korean church and me, we had our five volunteers for June.



On Sunday, June 27, there will be a new sign-up sheet so that you can sign as soon as possible to work in the coming months. This month I didn't have to "beg" for help. What a wonderful feeling!

- Janet Melcher

Greener Day Update

Thanks to everyone, we met the Greener Day fundraising goals last fall. Now that the heating season is over, we can see how we did on the technical goals. As shown in the report below, we reduced our fuel consumption, our heating bill and our greenhouse gas emissions. Here are the details.

Greener Day Projects completed in 2008: replaced 74 windows, replaced 3 exterior doors, replaced 15 thermostats and doubled Education Wing attic insulation

Greener Day Projects completed in 2009: Replaced fuel oil furnace with 3 natural gas furnaces

Greener Day Results

Heating Season	2007 - 2008 (before Greener Day)	2008 - 2009 (during Greener Day)	2009 - 2010 (after Greener Day)
Reduction in Fuel (energy) Used	0%	9%	34%
Fuel Cost.....	\$25,017	\$17,493	\$9,252
Tons of Carbon Dioxide Emitted	84	77	40



Social Justice Endowment Awards 2010 Grants

The Social Justice Endowment Committee selected its 2010 grant award recipients on June 14, 2010 for a total amount of \$3,000 to three recipients. They were The Big Sister Big Brother Program in Ukraine, Centro Presente Immigrant Workers Center Testimony Video and New England Climate Summer.

The **Big Sister Big Brother Program in Ukraine** was awarded \$2,000.00. The applicant is Maryna Vashchenko, Ed.M. a doctoral student at Tufts University. This is a continuation of the orphanage program we funded last year. Last year LUMC Social Justice Grant funding provided for the implementation of the third cycle of the program and the preparation of a video for the purposes of training new “sisters and brothers,” disseminate information about the program to other communities, and document the benefits of the program to the participating children. Maryna has been working with two prominent specialists, Dr. Laurie Miller and Dr. Ann Easterbrooks, whose work focuses on the development of institutionalized children. Under their mentorship, and with the support of a seed grant from the Tisch Active Citizen Summer Program Award, Maryna started a community-based intervention program in Ukraine in September 2007. This program aims to decrease the negative impact of institutional rearing on children in group-homes by creating opportunities for children to have daily one-on-one interactions with local university students. The program’s main objective is to recruit local university students to spend several hours a day with infants and toddlers at an orphanage, providing the kind of attention research has shown to be linked to the development of secure attachment. Since its inception, this intervention program has had three successful cycles and its positive impact on the participants has been observed. Shortly after, the children appeared more engaged, happy, and healthy-looking compared with what they had been before the program. Most of the participating children were soon adopted, which may have been a result of the positive transformations in children’s emotional health. The program is based on a simple idea, but the effect it has on children who have never been held is tremendous. The sponsor is exploring ways to make the program sustainable and viable.

The **Immigrant Workers Center Testimony Video** by Centro Presente was awarded \$500.00. Centro Presente educates Latino immigrant workers about their labor rights and empowers them to organize and advocate for themselves. The finan-

cial backing will be used to support the in-house production of a video about the exploitation of immigrant workers through testimonies to use as an outreach tool for presentations in churches, schools and other venues. Latino immigrant workers in the greater Boston area confront a host of problems too often common to all immigrant workers: unpaid wages, payments below the minimum wage, intimidation, indiscriminate firings, job insecurity, and unsafe working conditions. The vulnerability of immigrant workers to labor exploitation is in large part a result of their lack of knowledge of the resources available to protect them and their fear concerning their immigration status. That fear extends beyond those who are undocumented to those who may have the proper papers but are intimidated by threats from employers regarding those papers if they raise their voices in protest over working conditions.

The **New England Climate Summer** was awarded \$500.00. Climate Summer is a project of Students for a Just and Stable Future (SJSF), who work to build student leadership and to engage diverse communities more fully in the work of the grassroots climate movement. Climate Summer 2010 is a nine week unpaid internship opportunity for college-aged students. Participants will be divided into teams of six, two teams in Massachusetts and one in New Hampshire. Teams will bike from town to town, staying for approximately five days in each town, building a bigger and better climate movement by working with local individuals and organizations to begin to create, introduce, or pass a municipal resolution declaring a “Climate Emergency,” charting a course for municipal strategic planning, and demanding bold, science based action at the state and federal levels to reduce atmospheric CO2 below 350 ppm. Climate Summer is also one of ten “Define Our Decade” summer programs of the Energy Action Coalition, and the only sponsored program in the Northeastern United States, which is joined by the Massachusetts Council of Churches, advocating for 100% Clean Electricity in Massachusetts by 2020. This means that the youth climate movement in this country is now united behind the goal of achieving 100% Clean Electricity by 2020.

- Ken Kreutziger, Chair

Social Justice Endowment Committee

Nursery Schedule

July 4	Jane Atkins, Pisha Chen
July 11	Theresa and Melanie Walker
July 18	Julie Munro, Kathy Parks
July 25	Janice Herndon, Michelle Woods
August 1	Pisha Chen, Jane Atkins
August 8	Theresa and Melanie Walker
August 15	Michelle Woods, James Chin
August 22	Kathy Parks, Janice Herndon
August 29	Pisha Chen, Julie Munro

Acolyte Schedule

July 4	Thomas Chin
July 11	Theo Lavalla
July 18	Andy Linton
July 25	Ryan Atkins
August 1	Thomas Chin
August 8	Theo Lavalla
August 15	Andy Linton
August 22	Ryan Atkins
August 29	Thomas Chin



Tweens Schedule

During the summer months, Tweens will meet on July 11 and 25, August 8 and 29.

Summer Sunday School: *The Story Keepers*

During the summer months, children are invited to participate in Summer Sunday School. We will be watching *The Story Keepers*, an animated video presentation of Jesus' life and parables told in a story about an early Christian Family. Come join us!

Date	Stories
July 4	<i>Children attend worship</i>
July 11	Feeding the 5000; Zaccheus; Jarius' Daughter; Jesus Teaches (R. Lavalla)
July 18	John the Baptist; Calming the Storm; Gerasene Demoniac (B. Linton)
July 25	Good Samaritan; The Sower; Unmerciful Servant (L. Anthony)
Aug. 1	<i>Children attend worship</i>
Aug. 8	Jesus Blesses Children; Blind Bartimaeus; Man w/ Paralyzed Hand (B. Linton)
Aug. 15	Pharisee and Tax Collector; Two Houses; Jesus Heals the Paralytic (R. Lavalla)
Aug. 22	The Magi; Flight into Egypt; The Announcement; Birth of Jesus (L. Anthony)
Aug. 29	The Lost Sheep; Jesus' Heals Dumb Man; Widow's Mite (B. Linton)



Finance Corner

Here are the first budget numbers through May 2010.

Total YTD income to budget through 5/31/10:	\$ 108,813.51
Total YTD income budgeted through 5/31/10:	\$ 103,516.50
Total YTD expenses by LUMC through 5/31/10:	\$ 93,216.64
Total YTD expenses budgeted through 5/31/10:	\$ 99,377.28

Income continues to run ahead of budget and expenses continue lower. We are still looking good. Have a safe and happy summer everyone. See you all in September at Homecoming!

Many thanks for everything.

- Keith Herndon, Chair, Finance








Happy July
Birthday to
Liam!

Fellowship Coffee Gifts






It was recently brought up at the Finance Committee Meeting that there was some confusion as to what donations in the coffee can at refreshments labeled *Equal Exchange Coffee* was going toward. One person's interpretation was that it went to the company distributing fair trade products.

Actually the money goes toward the purchase of fair trade coffee, half and half, and other items needed for our fellowship time in Martin Hall after church services that are not brought by volunteers providing refreshments. Therefore, this can at refreshment time has been relabeled *Fellowship Coffee Gifts*. Thank you for your periodic donations.

July 2010 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:30 am Witness Cte.	2 Noon Free Concert at First Parish 	3
4 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion Independence Day 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall	5	6	7	8	9 Noon Free Concert at First Parish 	10
11 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Summer Sunday School: The Story Keepers Video Series 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall	12	13	14	15	16 Noon Free Concert at First Parish 	17
18 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Summer Sunday School: The Story Keepers Video Series 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall	19	20 1:30 pm Book Club	21	22	23 Noon Free Concert at First Parish 	24 8:30 – 11:15 Lexington Food Pantry
25 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Summer Sunday School: The Story Keepers Video Series 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall	26	27 7:00 pm Corporation Meeting	28	29	30 Noon Free Concert at First Parish 	31

August 2010 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Holy Communion</p> <p>8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon Free Concert at First Parish</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Summer Sunday School: The Story Keepers Video Series 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:15 pm Nurture Cte.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon Free Concert at First Parish</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Summer Sunday School: The Story Keepers Video Series 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon Free Concert at First Parish</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Summer Sunday School: The Story Keepers Video Series 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 am Witness Cte.</p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon Free Concert at First Parish</p> 	<p>28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 – 11:15 Lexington Food Pantry</p>
<p>29</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection</p> <p>10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Summer Sunday School: The Story Keepers Video Series 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall</p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>31</p>				

July-August 2010 Newsletter

Rev. Richard Capron, Ph.D., Pastor
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The Story Keepers: an animated video presentation of Jesus' life and parables

Summer Sunday School for children of all ages at 10:00 am all Sundays this summer (except July 4 and August 1). See page 4.

Summer Sunday Program

- 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care
- 10:00 am *The Story Keepers* (children of all ages)
- 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

