

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

June 2010

Vol. 58, No. 6

From the Pastor's Study...

Supporting the Workers

During the mid-1700's England began to develop as a major industrial power. Mining, the growth of factories, and commercial agriculture were rapidly displacing the old feudal economic structures and creating a new monied class, whose wealth was based on ownership and capital, rather than land and title. Of course, those who actually created the wealth by their labor were left at the bottom of society struggling to survive in grueling conditions.

Significantly, it was during this period that the Wesleys, John and Charles, launched a religious revival which took place outside the often ornate churches of the establishment, and which was independent of ecclesiastical privilege. John Wesley preached to the common people in fields and mine pits. They came by the thousands to hear his message of God's grace freely given to all. They gathered because Wesley came to them. From its inception the Wesleyan movement was a working class movement.

Moreover, it lost none of this character when it crossed the Atlantic to America. The early circuit riders did not seek to build churches in which the wealthy could be comfortable, but took to the roads of a new land. They spread Scriptural holiness across the frontier reaching out to farmers and shopkeepers in the small towns and villages which popped up as settlement expanded. They met in homes and barns, and they spawned huge revivals (camp meetings), where all were welcome. And they made no distinction between their evangelical efforts and their concerns for the daily plight of the working people of America. Methodists were prominent advocates for workers rights, the rights of children in the workplace, and for the education of the masses of people.

Today Methodism has changed in many ways. But when we are faithful to our history we remember our working class beginnings, advocating for those who continue to struggle by the sweat of their brow. Recently, I have become much more involved in supporting the struggles of workers in eastern Massachusetts. I have walked picket lines with hospitality workers who were peremptorily dismissed by Boston area Hyatt Hotels last summer, so that the company could hire cheap, outsourced labor. And I have become quite involved with the striking workers of Shaw's Methuen distribution center. These workers have been on strike since March 7, when Shaw's management refused to pay any of the 13% increase in health care costs, in spite of record profits by the corporation.

June 2010 Worship

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

June 6

Holy Communion
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Galatians 1: 11-24; Luke 7: 11-17
Sermon: A New Life



June 13 - Third Sunday after Pentecost
Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7: 36-8: 3
Sermon: Creating Grace



June 20 - Children/Youth Sunday
Fathers' Day
The children of LUMC will lead the service with prayer, praise, music, and a creative telling of the Parable of the Sower.

June 27 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection
Galatians 5: 1, 13-25; Luke 9: 51-62
Sermon: Free to Love



Help Needed at the Food Pantry

On Saturday, May 22, I could not get enough people for the Pantry. To keep our commitment we need to have five volunteers on the fourth Saturday of each month between the hours of 8:30 - 11:15 am. If we can't guarantee the volunteers we won't be able to continue our work. We are one of five churches and synagogues providing volunteers. Other dedicated volunteers organize and serve at the pantry weekly. There are also several volunteers who set-up the tables, etc. on Friday afternoon to be ready for Saturday morning. If several people would commit to volunteering just three times a year I believe we would be able to continue. To volunteer you need to be sixteen years old.

Please start signing up for the Summer and Fall months. It would be very helpful to have people sign-up by the middle of the month so I'll have time to get needed volunteers. The sign-up sheet is on the right as you enter Martin Hall. If you have questions please contact me.

- Janet Melcher

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Supporting the Workers

On May 5 I joined with several other clergy to travel to the West Bridgewater corporate headquarters of Shaw's. We were bringing a petition signed by over 60 religious leaders, including our Bishop Peter Weaver, to ask the company to return to the negotiating table with the union. We were rudely dismissed and threatened with arrest. On May 23 the workers began a 60 mile walk from Methuen to Boston, demonstrating at Shaw's supermarkets along the way. They are simply asking for a fair settlement of grievances, and the opportunity to return to their jobs. Until the company takes their request seriously many, myself included, are boycotting Shaw's. Our LUMC Outreach Committee has voted to make a token contribution of \$100 to the strike fund. I am urging all members and friends to join the boycott and to persuade others to do the same. Let us embrace the tradition of our forebears in the faith and make our witness a powerful testimony for justice on behalf of those who have been wronged.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Capron".

Richard Capron, pastor

11th Hour for Adults and Youth

No Meetings in June

Because of special events taking place during June, the 11th Hour study group, which meets on Sunday mornings, will not meet again until the Sunday after Labor Day.

Prayer List Updates

To update the prayer list printed in the weekly worship bulletin, cc Allyson Printz. Also, need of a pastoral visit

Bible and Beyond: “Galatians: A Brief Treatise on Freedom and Community”



Fiesta Night!
June 6 at 6:00 pm

It's only six chapters long, but St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians has had an immense impact on the course of Christian thinking through the ages. Martin Luther found it to be of great importance in setting the course for the Protestantth century. The great missionary movement of the 19th century was ignited by its message of outreach to the gentile world. And its theme of the equality between men and women resounds in our contemporary world as few other pieces of Scripture do.

During the month of June our Sunday lectionary readings focus attention on the Letter to the Galatians. And our Wednesday evening Bible and Beyond study group will dig into the meaning of what Paul is saying to the churches - both then and now. Please make the time to join us at 7:30 pm for one hour each Wednesday during June. As a catalyst for our discussions, we will be using a guide authored by Paul E. Stroble, Paul and the Galatians, publ. Abingdon Press. To get your copy, please speak to Rev. Capron or to Kathy Parks.

Sunday evening, June 6, there will be a Fiesta Night in Martin Hall celebrating the past, present, and future of our covenant with Iglesia de Cristo: Dios es Amor in La Borgoña, Nicaragua. There will be music, worship, and a live hook-up with our partners in La Borgoña. For the children we will have a piñata full of surprises. And there will be lots of "Nico" food - rice and beans, chicken, plantains, and fresh fruit.

As Pastor Richard indicated in last month's newsletter, we are in the process of reshaping our covenant with Iglesia de Cristo, inviting a third partner to join (CEPAD) to facilitate better communication and accountability. The fiesta marks the beginning of our effort to elicit pledges of support for this exciting new chapter in our long standing relationship with brothers and sisters to the south.

The Fiesta will begin at 6:00 pm and all age groups are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the meal, but sign-ups in advance will help us know how many to expect. Please sign the sheet during Sunday fellowship time, or call the church office with your intentions (781-861-9301).



Finance Corner

Here are the first budget numbers through April 2010.

Total YTD income to budget through 4/30/10:
\$ 85,203.88

Total YTD income budgeted through 4/30/10:
\$ 79,879.00

Total YTD expenses by LUMC through 4/30/10:
\$ 71,338.46

Total YTD expenses budgeted through 4/30/10:
\$ 76,309.52

Income continues to run ahead of budget and expenses continue lower. We are still looking good. Have a safe and happy summer everyone.

Many thanks for everything.

- Keith Herndon, Chair, Finance



Acolyte Schedule

June 6 Thomas Chin
June 13 Andy Linton
June 20 Theo Lavalla
June 27 Ryan Atkins

Godly Play

June 6 Children attend worship
June 13 Children/Youth Sunday Preparation
June 20 Children/Youth Sunday

Nursery Schedule

June 6 Theresa and Melanie Walker
June 13 Janice Herndon, Julie Munro
June 20 Michelle Woods, Pisha Chen
June 27 Kathy Parks, Michelle Woods



Baobob Blast VBS

Calvary UMC in Arlington

Date: August 23 - 27, 2010
Time: 9:00 am - noon; noon - 3:30 pm extended day
Ages: 3 years and up

Baobab Blast! Welcome to God's great get-together under the Baobab Tree. This year's VBS will take us to the African savannah for a week of exploring creation and community with games, songs, skits and stories. For information, contact the Calvary Church (300 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA, 02474) at 781-646-8679 or www.calvaryarlington.org.



LUMC Children/Youth Outing at Kimball Farm on June 26!



Come join us for a day of mini-golf, bumper boats and yummy ice cream at Kimball Farm in Westford! You can also play games in the arcade, hit some balls in the batting cages or see how far you can drive a golf ball!

Children of all ages are invited to attend! LUMC will pay for one round of mini-golf and a ride on the bumper boats for all kids under the age of 18. Sorry, if you're a 35 year old kid, you don't qualify - but you're welcome to join us anyway!

We will meet at LUMC at 9:30 am on Saturday, June 26 with the intent of arriving at Kimball's at 10:00 am. Please RSVP to Jane Atkins (jtatkins178@live.com or 781-652-0155) by June 20.



LUMC Book Club

Date: Tuesday, June 1
Time: 1:30 pm at Lexington UMC
Book: Mountains beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder
Questions: Smoki Fraser (781-862-7394)

Condolences

Condolences to the family and friends of Rosemary Wilkes who died on May 21, 2010. A funeral service was held at LUMC on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. Note: Barbara Wilkes Shee
Concord, MA, 01742.