

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

March 2004

Vol. 52, No. 3

From the Pastor's Study...

As February days slip away and we turn the calendar page to March, so, too, the season of Epiphany ends and we turn the liturgical calendar to Ash Wednesday and 40 days of Lent. The ordering of these seasons makes sense. If we have had an "epiphany" or been blessed with several "epiphanies" during Epiphany days, then Lent arrives at our doorstep inviting us to ponder and pray with these experiences of God.

I find myself welcoming Lent this year. Having just arrived home from Nicaragua, I bring to the Lenten season memories of extravagant hospitality by our sisters and brothers in La Borgoña, their praise and love of God, and their deep gratitude for our relationship with them. Each of these came with its own epiphany moment...the sharing of a single tortilla among six of us around a family breakfast table; the children of Dios Es Amor Eglisia (God is Love Church) singing a song of joy; the secondary and college students acknowledging their gratitude for the opportunity that our funding provides them to learn and share their knowledge back in their community.

What were some of your experiences of God during the Epiphany days of January and February? Did God beckon you to make a change in your life? or to repent? or to begin something new? How did God appear to us as a congregation during this past Epiphany? Was there an invitation to redesign our worship style, integrating some contemporary worship, making for a more "blended worship?" Has God invited us to ponder a long range vision for our church community?

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Report from Nicaragua

How do I begin to tell you all that I experienced on my Nicaraguan odyssey? It was the most amazing experience of my life so far. For years, I have been hearing the tales of others, and planning for our programs in La Borgoña and I thought I knew what to expect. Living in community with the incredible people we serve was an honor and privilege that will remain with me always.

My host family was comprised of the most generous, loving and gentle people I have ever met. Roberto and Luisa Hernandez-Calero and their five children loved me unconditionally and gave of themselves to the point of great sacrifice, I am sure, to make certain that I was comfortable and fed and cared for.



Hernandez-Calero family

All five of their children benefit from the scholarships we provide. Nidia and Louisa are in secondary school and Roberto, Maria and Rosa all attend college on Saturdays from 8:00- 4:00. Maria works at a candle factory in Managua and Rosa teaches (for free) in the church's school. The father works as a security guard at the A Ola (wave) seafood restaurant in Managua.

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Lent - March Worship 2004

"I Believe"

Reclaiming The Apostles' Creed for the 21st Century

During each interactive worship service, Rev. Susan Morrison will explore the doctrines and theological statements made in the ancient Christian creed, *The Apostles' Creed*. Her series is titled "I Believe: Reclaiming The Apostles' Creed for the 21st Century."

February 29

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 91:1-2,9-16; Exodus 3:13-15; Genesis 1:26-31

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

March 7

Second Sunday in Lent

Service of Word and Table

Matthew 16:13-16; Luke 1:26-53

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

"I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary."

March 14

Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm 22:1-19; Isaiah 42:1-4, 53:5-9; Matthew 28:1-7

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

"Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;"

March 21

Fourth Sunday in Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing

Psalm 47; Acts 1:6-1, 2:1-4; Matthew 22:34-36

9:00 am Holy Communion served in the library

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

"he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,"

March 28

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Roxbury Food Pantry Collection

Psalm 126; John 10:10b; Acts 2:37-47

9:15 am Praise Music

9:30 am Worship, *Godly Play*, Sunday School

"the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."



From the Pastor...

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What *might* we look like in 10 years? As the season of Lent begins, we have the gift of a season that invites us to pray and reflect and discern what it is that God has asked of us personally and as a congregation during these past Epiphany days.

So join me with grateful hearts in this Lenten season. Make a daily commitment to prayer and Bible study. Become a member of a Covenant Group. Worship each Sunday and invite a Friend, Relative, Associate or Neighbor to come to church. Renew your relationship with the God who has appeared to you and respond to God's beckoning in your life.

I look forward to sharing these Lenten days with you.

Always in Christ,

Rev. Susan J. Morrison, Pastor



Worship Goal:  **100** adults and children in worship each Sunday

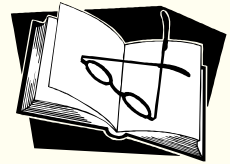
February Worship Attendance

Feb 1: 87 Feb 8: 83 Feb 15: 64 Feb 22: 58

MAKE WORSHIP A PRIORITY OF YOUR WEEK.

April Newsletter Articles due
Monday, March 22, 2004

Adult Study Opportunities



Sunday Mornings 11th Hour

The Spirituality of Non-Violence

This Lenten Season, the 11th Hour will be participating in a study titled *The Spirituality of Non-Violence: From Violence to Wholeness*. This study includes topics such as:

- The Faithful Non-Violence of Jesus
- Violence, Non-Violence, and Gender
- Gandhi and the Non-Violence of Soul-Force
- Cultivating Reverence for the Earth
- Nonviolent Social Change in Action: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

This series is designed to renew our individual spiritual practices while educating ourselves about the roots of violence and the appropriate non-violent response. Please contact Andrea Laux (lauxaj@yahoo.com or 617-718-0711) with any questions, concerns, or interest in leading one of the 11th Hour Sessions.

May this study truly challenge all of us to move from Violence to Wholeness!

Covenant Groups to Resume During Lent

Several of the fall Covenant Groups are reconvening during Lent. Newcomers are welcome! Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 25 and concludes on Holy Saturday, April 10.

During Lent on Tuesday afternoons, a group will gather at Al and Muriel Landers' home for prayer, sharing and fellowship. Members will use the book *Ashes to Easter* as a devotional guide and resource for the group gatherings.

On Thursday evenings during Lent, another Covenant Group will gather at Ken and Louise Kreutzigers' home and use the resource *The Spirituality of Non-Violence: From Violence to Wholeness* as a text for study and conversation.

On Sundays during the 11th Hour, Covenant Groups are expected to meet and share in the reading and discussion of *The Spirituality of Non-Violence: From Violence to Wholeness*.

Bible and Bagels

The Monday morning *Bible and Bagels* study group will gather from 10:00 - 11:30 am to read and discuss scripture, and view a *Questions of Faith* video. Each week, a different topic will be presented.

Video tape presenters include well known spokespersons such as John Cobb, Richard Foster, Adele Gonzales, Thomas Moore, Chaim Potok, Tex Sample, Terry Waite and Johnny Ray Youngblood.

Lively conversation follows each video presentation. Prayer, fellowship and sometimes, even bagels, can be expected! Join the group for any or all of the above topics.

Linda Rings' Report from Nicaragua

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These seven people live in two small rooms - one of which they gave to me. The room was maybe 6' by 9' and was the bedroom of all four daughters. The rest of their property contains an outdoor kitchen and dining area, outhouse, "shower," and chicken coop. There is also an outdoor sink, separate from the kitchen area, where food is washed, clothes are washed, and teeth are brushed.

While I was there I felt absolute contentment - something that has evaded me for sometime now. I had all I needed. I felt wrapped in a warm blanket of their love.

Education is the key here to any progress or improvement in their life situation. I believe we are totally on the right track with the computer school, the secondary and university scholarships, the sewing program and the medical program.

The REASON we were there was to sign the new covenant, straighten out money matters and number of scholarships, etc. Our meetings went well and many ideas were openly exchanged. The computer school promotion, the meeting with the students, our joint painting of the church, the church services and meals all were wonderful. But the true richness of the experience came in the intangibles that have to be lived to be understood. I thank LUMC for being part of this amazing human-to-human endeavor. We don't just give them money; we give them ourselves and, in turn, are given our souls. I believe we truly walk with Jesus in this work we do. How could we not do it? How can we not do more!

- Linda Rings

Christian Education News

Godly Play in March

March 7	Faces of the Journey: Jesus is baptized
March 14	Faces of the Journey: Jesus is Tempted
March 21	Faces of the Journey: Jesus the Healer
March 28	Faces of the Journey: Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem

In March, the children enter into the liturgical season of Lent, with the telling of the stories of the "The Faces of the Journey." These stories retell Jesus' life from his birth to his death and resurrection which we will celebrate at Easter.

Instead of the wondering questions that usually conclude our stories, the Faces of the Journey is concluded by the children who select items from the room that relate to the portion of Jesus' life told on that day. By the end of Lent, practically the whole Godly Play classroom becomes relevant and more and more of our props will make their way to surround the story. This illustrates in a powerful way the fact that Jesus is all around us in our classroom and that every story in the Bible relates in some way to the other stories.

The act of choosing items from the classroom that relate to the story also helps the children express their own understanding of what is most important in Jesus' life and work and in this way to take ownership of their faith. Then, they may even see their own faces as faces on the journey, and see their own lives within Jesus' life and the new life that he brings.

Christian Education Committee seeks Art Supplies

The Christian Education Committee is looking to restock its art supplies for Godly Play. If you have any extra art supplies or craft kits that are not getting used at your house, please consider making a donation to our Christian Education Program. Questions? Please contact Andrea (lauxaj@yahoo.com or 617-718-0711). Thank you in advance for all of your generosity as a community of faith!

Lent with a Child

The Season of Lent is here. Some of us may remember Lent as a time when our families gave up meat or candy or some other pleasure. Lent may have been a season of hardship.

Another way to think of Lent is as a season of preparation. As we prepare for Christmas in Advent, we prepare for Easter in Lent. When talking to the child in your life, you might talk about how when we are preparing for special events we may add something to our lives or do some things differently. For example, when we prepare to go to church, we get dressed up. When we prepare to start school, we gather new crayons, pencils, and paper.

Think about adding one of these activities to prepare for Easter in Lent:

- ♦ Make a habit of saying a simple grace before meals. For example, "Lord, for what we have, we thank you. Amen."
- ♦ Plant seeds, tend them each week, and watch them grow this Spring - a sign of new life in the world.
- ♦ Select a children's Bible together and read through one Gospel during the six weeks of Lent.
- ♦ Get to know an elderly person or neighbor in need of help and assist that person each week to be in service as Jesus was in service.
- ♦ Light a candle each night and say a simple prayer for peace, such as, "Prince of Peace, bring peace to our world, our homes, and our hearts. Amen."

Be creative! Choose an activity just right for your family. Keep it simple and make it a habit. In this way, you and your child will both center your lives in God this Lent and Easter will be an even more meaningful celebration for all.



Youth News!

The Beatitudes

During Lent, the Youth will be engaging in a study of The Beatitudes with Paul Linton. Come and join us as we learn what is required to build strong Christian character! We meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the library.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the meek,
for they shall possess the earth.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Challenge is ON!!!

The LUMC Youth Leaders would like to challenge you to get to know your Youth, as well as to give you a chance to find out if you are HOT or NOT! The first three people to talk with a youth and submit the correct answers to the following questions will win a prize (designated by the youth).

So, are you HOT or NOT?!

1. What is the #1 best movie (recently released)?
2. Do you know what is the hardest thing to give up for Lent?
3. What is one of the worst things about having braces?
4. What is one of the top five fashion "Don'ts?"
5. Do you know who is the most famous (or infamous) person?

Answers can be submitted with your name to either Andrea Laux or Ben Beckwith at church or by email at lauxaj@yahoo.com or ben_beckwith@hotmail.com (please submit all answers on paper). Enjoy!

NQMA News

This Winter Season, the NotQuiteMiddleAgers are engaging in a challenging study of several Contemporary Theologians. The study is based on the book *Contemporary Theologians* by Father James Bacik and will include the following discussions:

- Week 1** Karl Rahner
Hans Urs von Balthasar
- Week 2** Karl Barth
Teilhard de Chardin
- Week 3** Rosemary Ruether
Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Week 4** Mohandas Gandhi
Gustavo Gutierrez
- Week 5** Paul Tillich
Alfred North Whitehead

NQMA meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Library. All are WELCOME, so please come and Join Us!

Questions? Contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com.

Lay Speaking School Metro Boston District

Date: March 21, 28 and April 4, 2004 (Sundays)

Time: 2:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Christ UMC, Malden, MA; 781-321-2490

Registration deadline: February 29, 2004

Contact Rev. Susan if you are interested in attending.

Leadership School for Local Church Leaders Metro Boston District

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Wakefield-Lynnfield UMC, Wakefield, MA

Registration deadline: March 14, 2004

Registration fee: \$7.00 (includes lunch)

\$12.00 if late

Contact Rev. Susan if you are interested in attending.

LUMC Movie Time!

All Church Fellowship



The Passion will begin showing in movie theaters on Ash Wednesday, February 25. Please plan to attend the movie on Saturday, March 13 with fellow members and guests of LUMC.

The exact times of the showing of the movie have not yet been released. Our current plan is to go to see the movie around 3:00 p.m. When we know the exact times of the movie, it will be in the Sunday bulletin and we will inform the church office so that you may call Allyson to find out the exact time we will be attending the movie. I will also email the Administrative Council as to the time and place of the movie.

We will have soup and conversation following the movie at the Kreutzigers'. **Even if you choose not to view the movie, you are welcome to join the conversation over supper.** Please contact Louise and Ken Kreutziger (781-862-1107) if you plan to attend so we will know how much soup we need to prepare.

Also, on March 21 at 7:00 pm, Professor Paula Fredriksen from the BU School of Theology will lead a discussion on *The Passion* at Hancock United Church of Christ. She has recently discussed the issue from a Christian point of view in the Christian Science Monitor (Feb. 2nd issue - there is also a Jewish opinion of the movie on the same page) and last week she appeared on the NBC Today show. LUMC contributed \$100 to Professor Fredriksen's honorarium.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS for March 13.

We hope many of you will be able to go to the movie and then participate in the soup and conversation following.

- Louise Kreutziger



March Book Club

LUMC's Book Club will meet on Monday, March 15 at 7:30 pm at Betty Lehr's home. The group will discuss *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. Everyone is welcome!



A "Thank You" for Clergy

Clergy in the local area were honored at a recent Tea at Carlton Williard Retirement Center in Bedford. During the year, I preach several times at their Sunday afternoon worship services. One of our church members, Nancy Van Loon, is a resident.

The following poem was composed by Juliette Hill, an active resident. It was so meaningful that I wanted to share it with the LUMC community.

- Rev. Susan

A "Thank You" for Clergy

by Juliette M. Hill, January 2004

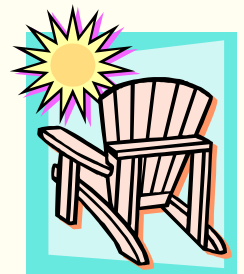
Life is a lonely, sometime thing,
a solitary walk upon a memory trail,
an empty Adirondack chair
to sit beside,
and wonder why water,
lapping,
sounds so frail.

A sometime dream
of fickle memory, or angry heart
while creation swirls round,
and we,
so far downstream.

Remind us, do,
that we still play a part
in God's design,
our appeal,
with hearing aid, and whitened hair
are offered like a prayer
as fragile hands clasp
in life's sometime Virginia reel.

Blessing for your time, your mind, your words of faith,
reminders;
we do not walk alone
nor is the vacant chair forgotten
for God fills every void
By voice, and smile, and music tone
we reaffirm, God has a role for everyone

Gratitude to all who share
a sometime hug;
a thought that sets a soul aflame,
for messages that make the world a warm,
embracing place,
your mein that says, "He cares and thus, I care."



Enhancing Your Worship Service with Music Workshop

Food for Thought!

On Saturday afternoon, January 31, 2004, Pastor George Walters-Sleyon led a workshop titled *Enhancing Your Worship Service with Music* for United Methodists in our annual conference. Presentations were made by Pastor George, Dan Roihl, LUMC's Music Director, and Bob Wycoff, a member of Union UMC, South Boston.

There was a live Praise Band (including our own Eric Shank on electric guitar and John Kramer on piano) and Jane Hogan, Dan Roihl, Andrea Laux and Ben Beckwith served as backup singers.

The workshop invited us to think about different approaches to music within the worship context. Notes from Pastor George's and Dan's presentations follow.

As you read through these notes, ask yourself: What is our worship style at LUMC? What type of music do I prefer? How might we alter our worship style and music to attract newcomers? Could we introduce a "blend" of contemporary and classical music in our worship service? Read! Ponder! Enjoy! Learn! Pray! Listen for how God is leading us in this area of worship and music.

- Rev. Susan



Notes on Contemporary Worship

by Pastor George Walters-Sleyon

What is Worship?

Worship can be defined from several perspectives based on one's Christian, denominational, and cultural background. Worship is also perceived within the context of one's relationship and commitment to God, theological definitions and liturgical traditions. (Matthew 4:8-10)

Worship is adoration or admiration cast upon whatever or whoever elicits one's time, resources and strength.

What is Christian Worship?

- † An act of service to God.
- † A response of adoration as the center of value and understood as intrinsic worth.
- † A feast of celebration and for what God has done.
- † A response to God's grace.
- † Worship is a symbolic activity.
- † Christian worship is about the expression of one's faith.
- † Christian worship is about communication: Innovation in worship accompanied by renewal within the church. It is a reflection in the way people communication with God (Andy Crouch).
- † Christian worship and music is multi-cultural and multi-faceted.

"Worship is an active response to God whereby we declare God's worth. Worship is not passive, but is participative, worship is not simply a mood; it is a response. Worship is not just feeling, it is a declaration."¹

"To worship is to quicken the conscience of the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God. All this is gathered up in that emotion which must cleanse us from selfishness because it is the most selfless of all emotion-adoration." (John E. Burkhart)²

The Goal of Christian Worship

- † To have a heartfelt experience of the reality of God's presence and truth
- † To walk in holiness with God
- † To be effective disciples
- † Spiritual Renewal and refreshing in corporate/public and private worship.

"Christian Worship grows out of an altogether dynamic event; it refers to a salvation-history and is part of it-everything that is done in worship, every event in the service, stands right in the movement of this salvation-history and participates in it." Habakkuk 3: 1-18 (John Burkhart)

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Notes on Contemporary Worship

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Heart vs. head conflict (Tension in Worship)

- † Lyric versus meaning
- † Understanding versus feeling
- † Inner expression versus outer expression
- † Religiosity versus spirituality
- † Theology versus devotion
- † Truth as fact versus truth as meaning
- † Reason versus experience.

What is Contemporary Worship?

Contemporary worship characterizes the current trend in worship. Contemporary worship emerges as a result of the thirst for genuine worship that is both experiential and participant oriented. Contemporary worship “is Christ-centered worship with theological integrity, genuine emotion, creativity, and musical excellence.” (Robert Castle)

It is contemporary because of the structure, consisting of a variety of music styles, from traditional hymns, spirituals/gospels, to folk, pop, classical, country or jazz.

How does Contemporary Worship begin in a Church?

- † When a church feels a sense that traditional hymns do not arouse or express a genuine adoration for God.
- † When members of the congregation are experiencing a hunger for worship that is spirit filled and
- † When the church wants to develop a worship that is attractive to unchurched people, church shoppers, young families, younger generation and other seekers of God.
- † When there is a desire for spiritual and numerical growth.

Contemporary worship thrives on theological integrity, sincere personal devotion and worship life, and authentic experience of knowing, worshipping and serving God.

“The goal of contemporary worship is to help the congregation negotiate a worship journey—from a merely rational acknowledgement of God’s existence and truth, through a heartfelt experience of the reality of God’s presence and truth, arriving at the an inner posture of heart and soul yields sincere expressions of adoration.”³

Seven Marks of Contemporary Worship

- † Contemporary worship is not afraid of change
- † Contemporary worship focuses on discipleship and spiritual growth
- † Contemporary worship will operate in the heart-language and heart-music of those who participate
- † Contemporary worship will have practical application to the issues and struggles of the people
- † Contemporary worship has “flow” and movement
- † Contemporary worship will invite and support experiences of the grace and power of Jesus Christ
- † Contemporary worship is hospitable and visitor-friendly. None of us like to be singled out or embarrassed. (Benedict & Miller)⁴

The Holy Spirit moves through spontaneity, also through form and structure.

Tension Between Liturgical Structure and Spontaneous Worship

- † Predictability versus surprise
- † Comfort versus discomfort
- † Familiarity versus unfamiliarity
- † Composition versus improvisation
- † The habitual versus the fresh
- † The corporate versus individual creativity (John E. Burkhardt).

Blended worship in the United Methodist denomination will be the use of *The Faith We Sing*, *The United Methodist Hymnal* and any other book of worship that is used to enhance the worship life of the congregation. The arrangement of songs and hymns for the service, the readiness of the musicians, the spiritual depth, theology and prayer life of the church will greatly influence the kind of worship they have.

Footnotes

1 *Worship: Adoration and Action*. 1993. 21.

2 *Worship*. 1982.

3 *Develop a Worship team*. 1996. 10.

4 *Contemporary Worship for the 21st Century*. 1995. 10.

Notes on Music and Worship From the Classical Perspective

by Dan Roihl, LUMC Music Director

I. What is the “classical perspective?”

A perspective of tradition, seen in relation to the historical legacy of Western art music. It is constantly evolving, yet always connected to its historical roots. It involves the application of principles of form, order, proportion, and aesthetic dating back to the ancient Greeks – a fundamentally *cerebral* process. Yet true worship occurs in the heart, not the head – it is the spontaneous and irrepressible expression of praise, in a state of direct communion with God.

II. Historical perspective.

This tension between the head and the heart, between the intellectual and visceral aspects of music – particularly music of the church – has existed since the dawn of Christianity. The founders of the early Church frowned at the idea that music should be cultivated as an art purely for aesthetic enjoyment. Rather, they valued music for its power to uplift the soul to contemplation of the divine, reflecting the Platonic idea that beauty exists in order to remind us of divine and perfect beauty.

During the Middle Ages, the church exercised strict control over what music was allowed in church – it was generally solemn in character, and had to conform to rigid standards.

With the Renaissance, people began to wonder, “Why doesn’t music evoke our passions the way ancient music was said to have done?”

Martin Luther believed in the ethical and educational power of music, and the Protestant Reformation opened the door to musical participation in worship by the entire congregation (early hymnody). The early Lutheran church was divided between the Orthodoxy, which favored traditional music reflecting divine splendor and beauty, and the Pietists, who preferred music of a simpler, more personal nature.

Around 1700, Erdmann Neumeister of Hamburg achieved something of a compromise in the creation of a kind of sacred cantata that combined musical traditions of the past with Pietistic poetic texts (perhaps the first “blended worship”).

During the “Enlightenment” of the 18th century, music came to be thought of as an accessory,

and was expected to meet the listener on his own ground rather than compel him to make an effort to understand it.

The Romantic age similarly emphasized the nature of music as feeling rather than thought, but also gave rise to the idea of art for its own sake, independent of its connection or accessibility to the public. This caused a widening in the rift between so-called “cultured” artists and the public, a trend that is still very visible today.

III. Here and now.

How *do* we reconcile the “classical” perspective with a worshipful spirit? Can music be expected to live up to the highest artistic standards, reflecting divine beauty, while also providing a vehicle for direct and personal communion with God? Or indeed, should it?

The language of “classical music” may seem archaic or inaccessible to many modern worshipers, particularly of the younger generation. On the other hand, this legacy affords great treasures to those with the patience and perseverance to unravel its secrets.

The bottom line is, a worshipful state can *only* be attained when the particular language of musical expression (whatever that is) is a familiar one, so that the worshiper is free from distractions of the mind. This always requires an investment of time and energy in order to achieve fluency with the “language” – but different types of music require different amounts of investment.

For the composer this entails study and training; for the performer, rehearsal; and for the listener, familiarity with a particular style. However extended or brief, this “learning” process always occurs in the head. And yet, to constitute true worship, the process must *begin* and *end* in the heart.

That is, it must be initially motivated by the desire for communion with God; and then, once the music has been taken apart, analyzed, rehearsed, and put back together, the final step is to transcend that entire intellectual process – to be open and vulnerable, not merely to the aesthetic beauty or technical intricacies of the music, but to the presence of the Holy Spirit, to the unique and personal impact of the music on that individual, whatever that may be. And to the classically trained musician, this final step is often the greatest challenge of all.



Organic Lawncare Workshop

This free workshop is for St. John's and Lexington UMC homeowners who would like to learn how to transition their lawns from chemically dependent to natural, or who wish to beautify and thicken an already natural lawn.

In this class, you will learn about the dangers of pesticides and fertilizers to both human health, especially children, and to the environment. You will learn how to take a soil test and where to have it analyzed. You will learn about some common lawn weeds and pests and how to eliminate them naturally.

As part of the class, we will spread compost on the front lawn of the church.

Instructor Jan Johnson is a NOFA (Northeast Organic Foods Association) accredited land care specialist.

Date: Saturday, April 3
 Time: 9:00 - 11:30 am
 Location: Church front lawn
 Registration: 978-779-0733



USAF Colonial Brass Band

Sunday, March 21

7:00 pm

LUMC Sanctuary



LUMC will host the Colonial Brass Band on Sunday, March 21 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The concert is free of charge.

The Colonial Brass is a component of the United States Air Force Band of Liberty and is stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, MA.

The group features six talented musicians with extensive experience in civilian and military bands and orchestras throughout the United States and abroad.

The Colonial Brass utilizes a wide variety of music to entertain and inspire audiences of all ages. This highly versatile group offers up anything from Italian opera excerpts to jazz standards, marches, ragtime and even Motown. Constantly varying and adapting its repertoire to best serve its audiences, the group performs in schools, churches, town squares, and concert halls.

Join us for a wonderful evening of music!

Easter Plants



If you would like to order flowers to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, April 11, 2004, please complete the form below and return it to the church office (or put in the collection plate) with a check to cover your order **no later than Thursday, March 25, 2004.**

Easter plants available this year are Easter lilies, tulips, and hyacinths. Prices are given below.

Flower	Quantity	Amount
Lily	_____ @ \$7.00 =	_____
Tulip	_____ @ \$5.50 =	_____
Hyacinth	_____ @ \$5.50 =	_____
Total Amount Enclosed.....		_____

Given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Celebration of _____

REACHING OUT...

OUTREACH NEWS

If you haven't visited the LUMC Outreach web page recently, plan to do that in the near future; we're updated, new and improved.

We congratulate Paul Linton and Ken Kreutziger on their election to the town's Lexington Housing Partnership.

By the time you read this, Our Nicaragua delegation will have returned filled with renewed energy and appreciation for all that this congregation makes possible. Cheryl reports that Don Walker can't speak Spanish and the driver can't speak English but they both can speak some Russian. So, they communicate in fractured Russian. Finally, Marnie Bonner took a camcorder to La Borgoña so we look forward to seeing all the people and places we've so often heard about.

Our collection for Roxbury brought in 105 items in January. We plan to place a basket near the collection chest in case any of you prefer to make a financial rather than material contribution (OR you just plain forgot, this time). However, you are still encouraged to actually pick up something each time you are shopping; it's a useful reminder that hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts citizens do not have enough to eat. Please think about them and pray for them and for our society that allows this to happen.

- Bob Miner

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LEXINGTON

[Text from Paul Linton's Ministry Moment during Worship on February 22, 2004.]

Good morning. I'm here to tell you a little about affordable housing, one of the issues that the Outreach Committee is concentrating on this year. If I may, let me begin with a personal story. Many of you know my little boy Andy, and maybe some of you know how much he enjoys trucks – of any kind. When one of the town fire or maintenance trucks go by our house, Andy races to the front window to see the truck and to wave to the driver. I have to admit I enjoy this too, and sometimes even Dad gets to the window first! But something that happened to us recently has changed what I see when I look out that window. For last spring I lost my job; so even though I had many more chances to look out the window with Andy, I wasn't sure if we would still be able to afford the house and that window. I'm very fortunate in that I found similar employment later in the year, so we can continue to afford, and to look out, our window.

But I realize now many aren't so fortunate – even if they never lost their job, or even if they have a two-income family. They can't afford to live here, or in most of the other communities in the area.

I don't have to tell you how expensive it is to own or rent a home here. The numbers are astounding. In 2002, the median sale price for a house in Lexington was \$549,000; even with a \$100,000 down payment at today's low interest rates, the monthly mortgage alone for that home is \$3000. Rents can be \$2000 a month or more. It's no wonder Lexington has the third lowest population of young adults age 20 to 34 in the state – many of my friends or your grown children can't afford to live here.

It bothers me that I couldn't afford to buy a house now in the town that I live and that those of similar backgrounds can't afford it either. What does a community become when everyone has to be earning at least \$150,000 a year? What about the fire or police professionals that speed by our windows to help someone in need or the school teachers that I'll soon entrust my little boy's education, and thus his future, to? Although they and many others that I and my family depend on are here in Lexington during the day, they go home to some place away, possibly far away.

In Lexington this next year you'll probably hear a lot about affordable housing. You'll hear a lot of numbers – about Chapter 40B, population densities, traffic analysis, school impact, fiscal profiles; the list goes on and on. What I hope that you'll not lose sight of amid all the numbers and facts is that what it boils down to is people, and whether we as a community believe that we want a diverse population.

In closing, I ask you to consider what we as the church should think of and do about this situation, and what we want our communities to be. Jesus taught us that everyone is our neighbor. Do we believe it really is "love thy neighbor," and if so, then who will those neighbors be?

- Paul Linton

**"The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of people who are evil, but because of the people who will do nothing about it."
Albert Einstein**

For the Outreach Committee by Bill Santelmann

The Web Watch



Type these "URL" addresses into your Internet Explorer to see information pertaining to our LUMC theme "Peace With Justice" that you may not see elsewhere. Your comments, suggestions, and web contributions are welcomed and solicited. Please leave them in the Outreach box near the church office or send to Bill Santelmann at: n1au@rcn.com. Thank you!

If you would like an electronic copy of the URLs, write to Janis Roihl at jroihl@rcn.com and it will be sent to you each month. Previous URLs are also available and can be received as a Word attachment.

All of this month's URLs are from Janis Roihl.

- <http://www.tenthousandvillages.org/>

Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. There is a store in Cambridge.

- <http://www.ifat.org/>

IFAT: The International Fair Trade Association - the global association of Fair Trade Organizations.

- <http://www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/>

This section attempts to highlight some of the misconceptions and unfairness in the current model for global trading, economics and the current form of overly corporate-led globalization. It attempts to provide a look at how this all has an impact on people around the world, especially the developing nations.

- <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>

United for Peace and Justice is a coalition of more than 650 local and national groups throughout the United States who have joined together to oppose our government's policy of permanent warfare and empire-building.

- <http://www.transfairusa.org/>

TransFair USA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the only independent, third-party certifier of Fair Trade practices in the United States. Through regular visits to Fair Trade farmer cooperatives conducted by Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International (FLO), and partnerships with US companies, TransFair verifies that the farmers who produced Fair Trade Certified™ products were paid a fair price.

Letters



To our Friends at LUMC:

Words cannot express our gratitude for the support and kindness shown by so many of you during our memorial service for our son, David.

We thank you for the many cards, notes, phone calls and most of all, your prayers during these difficult days.

- Gerald and Dottie McLeod

Notes of sympathy may be sent to Dana and Austin McLeod, 65 Marie Ave., Nashua, NH, 03063; Gerry and Dottie McLeod, 71 Spring St., Lexington, MA, 02421; Myron and Becky (sister to David) Barnette, 11 Barnes Rd., Newton, MA, 02458

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent gift of \$250 to the Reconciling Ministries Network. Your financial commitment to RMN sows the seeds of healing and nurtures community for those affected by the policies of exclusion of our United Methodist Church.

Your gift also sows the seeds of reformation so that the UMC may truly pursue "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors," embodying the inclusive hospitality of the Gospel.

*In 2004, RMN goes to Pittsburgh in all our glorious diversity, boldly celebrating that we are "Watermarked" through baptism. While General Conference accents its theme of "Water Washed, Spirit Born," RMN volunteers will **witness to their assurance**: assurance that God has already made us a part of the family; assurance that God is with us as we work for full inclusion in the UMC; and assurance that God includes us and will not let us go.*

We are thankful for your part in this journey and pray for your continued support! Yours in the journey for justice,

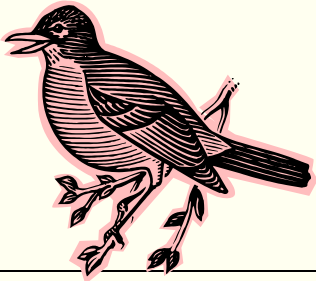

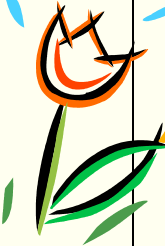
- Rev. Troy G. Plummer

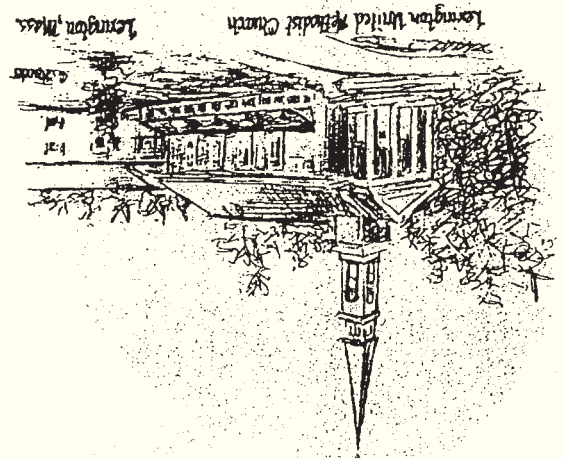
Executive Director, Reconciling Ministries Network



2003 Annual Reports
are available in the
church office.
Look for the bright
orange cover!

March 2004 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 am Bible and Bagels	2 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg. (Santelmanns') 7:30 pm NQMA	3	4 7:30 pm Covenant Group (Kreutzigers')	5	6
	Rev. Susan in Chicago for Reconciling Clergy and Church within a Church gatherings.					
7 Second Sunday in Lent Service of Word and Table 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); Youth Sunday School (6-12) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Covenant Groups 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship	8 10:00 am Bible and Bagels	9 1:30 pm Cov. Group (Landers') 7:30 pm Res. Diff. Mtg. (First Parish)	10 7:00 pm Finance Mtg. 8:00 pm Ad. Council	11 Noon Lexington Interfaith Clergy Assoc. 7:30 pm Covenant Group (Kreutzigers')	12	13 10:00-3:30 pm Annual Conf. Session (N. Brunswick, ME) Movie Matinee: <i>The Passion</i> Soup and conversation (Kreutzigers')
14 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); Youth Sunday School (6-12) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Covenant Groups 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship	15 7:30 pm Book Club: <i>Girl with a Pearl Earring</i> (Betty Lehr's)	16 10:00 am Metro Boston dCOM 1:30 pm Covenant Group (Landers') 7:30 pm NQMA	17 	18 7:30 pm Covenant Group (Kreutzigers')	19	20
21 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing 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 - 5); Youth Sunday School (6-12) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am Covenant Groups 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship 7:00 pm Colonial Brass Band Concert 7:00 pm Dialogue about <i>The Passion</i> (Hancock Church)	22 April Newsletter Deadline 10:00 am Bible and Bagels	23 1:30 pm Covenant Group (Landers') 7:30 pm Corporation Meeting	24 7:30 pm SPRC	25 7:30 pm Covenant Group (Kreutzigers')	26 1:00 pm Newsletter Collation	27 9:00 am Lexington Food Pantry 10:00-3:00 pm Board of Church and Society (Eliot, ME)
28 Fifth Sunday in Lent Roxbury Food Pantry Collection 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am Worship; <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5); Youth Sunday School (6-12) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Covenant Groups 12:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm CWM Worship	29	30 10:00 am Clergy Cluster (Arlington) 1:30 pm Cov. Group (Landers') 6:30 pm Reconciling Ministries Taskforce (N. Andover)	31 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Important Dates to Save in Your Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie Time: The Passion; March 13 matinee; time TBD • USAF Colonial Brass Band Concert; March 21; 7:00 pm; Free! </div>		



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Our Sunday Program

- 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
9:15 am Praise Music; Nursery Care
9:30 am Worship; *Godly Play* (N - 5)
Youth Sunday School (Gr. 6 - 12)
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



USAF Colonial Brass Band
Sunday, March 21, 7:00 pm

LUMC Sanctuary; Free

(See page 10 for details.)



Rev. Susan J. Morrison, Pastor

Andrea Laux, Christian Education Director

George Walters-Sleyon, Intern/Pastoral Assistant

Daniel Roihl, Music Director

John Kramer, Organist

Nikki Katulak, Children's Choir Director

David Babbidge, Sexton

Allison Printz, Office Administrator

Telephone 781-861-9301

Fax 781-861-7228

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Office Email office@lexumc.org