

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

May 2010

Vol. 58, No. 5

From the Pastor's Study...

Renewing the Covenant

As you may have noticed, we have not had a special pledge drive for our Nicaragua partnership with Iglesia de Cristo in La Borgoña for two years. This is due in part to the fact that we were addressing urgent capital needs at the church (the windows, lead paint remediation, and the new furnace) and in part due to the need to develop a new covenant relationship before presenting an appeal to the congregation. The Outreach Committee and Administrative Council neither wanted to burden our community with excessive financial burdens, nor did we believe it was appropriate to move forward without a clear direction regarding the covenant.

At long last, it appears that we are ready to make our appeal. The capital campaign has been successfully completed, and the elements for establishing a new covenant are now in place. It is the latter piece about which I am writing today. The Outreach Committee has carefully (and prayerfully) reflected on the strengths and weaknesses, the successes and failures in our previous covenant with Iglesia de Cristo. We recognize two major deficits that have hurt the effectiveness of the covenant over recent years: communication and accountability. In my visits with the community in La Borgoña over the past two years, I have shared these concerns with Pastor Absalon. He is in agreement that any new covenant must ensure improvement in both these areas.

To come right to the point, we are also in agreement that a better way to move forward will be to involve a third party in the covenant, which can oversee the matters of concern in these areas. After trying to find a suitable partner to join with us, we have been in dialogue with CEPAD, an ecumenical church agency in Managua with a long track record of facilitating relationships between churches in the U.S. and Nicaragua. I first came in contact with CEPAD just after the earthquake in 1973 when I was traveling through Central America. They were a major force in bringing relief to the people under the ruthless Somoza dictatorship. I am confident that with CEPAD on board we will improve both communication and accountability between our communities, as well as provide an avenue for Iglesia de Cristo to identify other resources for building their ministry in La Borgoña.

In mid-May you will receive a mailing inviting your support for a new covenant with our sister church in Nicaragua. I urge you to read it (carefully and prayerfully) and consider how you can participate in making a step forward in our ministry and mission.



Richard Capron, pastor



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May 2010 Worship

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

May 2
Holy Communion
Jerry Rardin, guest preacher



May 9 - Mothers' Day
Acts 16: 9-15; John 14: 23-29
Sermon: Holy Hospitality

May 16 - Ascension of the Lord
Scripture Acts 1: 1-11; Luke 24: 44-53
Sermon: Taking the Baton

May 23 - Pentecost
Acts 2: 1-21; John 14: 8-17
Sermon: What We See and Know

May 30 - Trinity Sunday
Peace with Justice Sunday
Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection
Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31; John 16: 12-15
Sermon: The Internal Life of God

Guest Preacher on May 2

Rev. Jerry Rardin

We welcome the Rev. Jerry Rardin as our guest preacher on Sunday, May 2. Jerry is a retired elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference where the bulk of his ministry was pastoral counseling at the Samaritan Counseling Center in Philadelphia. He now works with clergy in our area in the "Tending the Fire" program, a resource to facilitate to pastoral effectiveness in local churches. Jerry resides at Newbury Commons in Concord.

Prayer List Updates

To update the prayer list printed in the weekly worship bulletin, contact Richard Capron or Allyson Printz. Also, if you know of someone in need of a pastoral visit, please inform Richard.

Equal Exchange Coffee Sales

Orders Due: Sunday, May 23

Distribution: Sunday, June 6

For your convenience and in support of third world family farmers, the Outreach Committee is having the sale of Fair Traded Coffee and Tea for our spring sales. See the order form for items and prices. Return your completed form to the Outreach mailbox or to Ken Kreutziger by Sunday, May 23.

Sales for Equal Exchange products are conducted two times a year with orders due in mid May for distribution the first Sunday in June and orders due in mid November for distribution the first Sunday in December at our Alternative Christmas celebration.

When you buy fair trade coffee or other items, you are causing systemic change in the marketplace!

Why bother? When you buy fair trade coffee or other items you are causing systemic change in the marketplace! You are bringing biblical justice into the economic equation. The mathematics is simple: More coffee and other items purchased means added support for more small family farmers.



Peace with justice,
- Ken Kreutziger

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed for Postal Food Drive on May 8

U.S. Postal workers in Lexington will pick up food pantry items on May 8 and deliver them to the Lexington Food Pantry.



Volunteers are needed for receiving and sorting these items. All ages are welcome. The hours are 12:00 to 6:00 pm with 3:00 to 6:00 pm

Bible and Beyond in May

In May, we'll complete our study of *Do What You Have the Power to Do* by Helen Bruch Pearson. This study examines the stories of six women in the New Testament whose names have been lost but whose lives have impacted Christianity in remarkable ways. Men and women alike will benefit from this study and find the stories of these ancient women insightful and inspiring. The paperback costs \$10, and books are available from Rev. Richard Capron at the church.

After Mother's Day, we'll begin our final study of the program year. We will focus on diversity through the study of Galatians. The study will run May 19 through June 16.

The study group meets each Wednesday in the library, from 7:30 – 8:30 pm and is co-led by Rev. Richard Capron and a member of the laity. The format is open discussion, based on the reading. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, contact Richard Capron (capronserenity@aol.com or 781-861-9301) or Kathy Parks (kjparks@us.ibm.com). If you need childcare, contact Kathy.

May Schedule: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

May 4 - The Power of a New Beginning: The Woman who had a near-death experience
(John 7:53-8:11)

May 12 - The Power of Witnessing: The Woman who hauled Living Water (John 4:1-30, 39-42)

May 19 - Galatians: A study of diversity in the Bible

May 26 - Galatians: A study of diversity in the Bible

Susan Morrison Retirement

Rev. Susan Morrison has announced that she will be retiring from parish ministry this June. A celebration of her 26 years of ordained ministry is planned for Sunday, June 13 at Holy Trinity UMC in Danvers. Our Administrative Council has voted to send a delegation to the event to represent Lexington UMC.

At a later time next fall, Susan has agreed to be a guest preacher at LUMC and we will all be able to recognize her retirement at that time.

Methodist Weekday School Report



The Methodist Weekday School Committee met on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Directors Ruth Carlson and Pat McClure reported that the 2009-2010 school year is going very well. School enrollment is slightly lower than in previous years, but well above other pre-schools in Lexington, some of which have had to close their doors. The Extended Day, Lunch, and Afternoon Enrichment programs continue to be popular among parents and children, and the fundraising events, such as the Harvest Fest and Auction in November and the Magic Show and Fair in March, were well attended.

You may notice some structural changes around the building soon. The Methodist Weekday School will install a new fire-rated door with safety glass at the stairs in the office corridor. Over the summer, it will upgrade the last wooden structure on the playground to a splinter-free engineered wood structure.

Enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is underway and space is available in many of next year's classes. If you know a family looking for pre-school, please spread the word about what a wonderful place the Methodist Weekday School is for young children.

- Lara Anthony

Finance Corner

Here are the first budget numbers through March 2010.

Total YTD income to budget through 3/31/10:
\$ 67,020.32

Total YTD income budgeted through 3/31/10:
\$ 65,441.50

Total YTD expenses by LUMC through 3/31/10:
\$ 53,524.34

Total YTD expenses budgeted through 3/31/10:
\$ 57,382.14

Income is still running a little ahead of budget and expenses are running a little less.

Note: The pledges for 2010 that were received in 2009 totaled \$8,185 which is included as part the Income on the top line above.

As we move into the summer season please enjoy the warm weather, be safe, and come to church on Sundays w

Many thanks for e

- Keith

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Spring 2010 Equal Exchange Coffee Plus Sales

Orders Due: Sunday, May 23

Distribution: Sunday, June 6

The Outreach Committee requests that you indicate which Equal Exchange items you want in this order form will be delivered as refreshments on Sunday, June 6.

Please indicate the quantities desired, your name, and return this form to the Outreach mailbox or to Ken Kreutziger by Sunday, May 23.

Payment will be collected on June 6. Should you not be there, the Sunday, please include payment with your order form. Preferred payment is by check made out to LUMC with \$5 coffee sales noted in the "Pay" line at the bottom of your check.

Name

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Coffee: Regular - "with coffees"

Name	Each	Qty	Cost
Conventional (Colombian)	\$6.25		
Conventional Hazelnut	7.00		
Organic (Colombian)	6.75		
Organic French Roast (whole bean)	6.75		
Coffee: Decaffeinated			
Conventional	\$7.25		
Conventional Hazelnut	8.00		
Organic	7.75		
Organic - 25 tea bags			
Earl Grey	3.00		
English Breakfast	3.00		
Keibutsu (caffeine-free)	3.25		
Cost			

A little detail that should be included with your order is the value of full coffee or boxes by or considered an identified gift.

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Godly Play

May 2	Children attend worship
May 9	Paul B. Linton, C. Corson
May 16	Holy Trinity L. Anthony, M. Thompson
May 23	Pentecost R. Lavalla, L. Kreutziger
May 30	TBD

Acolyte Schedule

May 2	Ryan Atkins
May 9	Thomas Chin
May 16	Andy Linton
May 23	Theo Lavalla
May 30	Ryan Atkins



Happy May Birthdays to
Gwen, Alexander and Katie!

Teens and Tweens

Teens and Tweens will meet on Sunday, May 16 and Sunday, May 30.

Nursery Schedule

May 2	Kathy Parks, Julie Munro
May 9	Theresa and Melanie Walker
May 16	James Chin, Kathy Parks
May 23	Julie Munro, Michelle Woods
May 30	Kathy Parks, Jane Atkins

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)