

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

March 2010

Vol. 58, No. 3

From the Pastor's Study...

Recommend Us!

A pastor friend of mine recently remarked, "Most people would have no trouble recommending a good book to a friend - or a movie, or a favorite restaurant - so why can't they do the same for the church that they love and the Lord in whom they believe?" Good question, I thought. And then I thought about how few visitors we've had in worship during the past several months.

I know the folks at LUMC love their church and have a powerful faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ. And I know there are some who do invite friends and relatives to come to worship and the many program opportunities such as our study groups, concerts, and fellowship activities. Occasionally, the people we invite even take us up on the offer. But even if they don't, it's not necessary to give up hope that they may eventually say, "Okay."

Just think of what our friends may have missed over the past couple of months: a heart-warming Christmas Eve program given by our young people, beautiful choral renditions by an outstanding choir, stimulating discussion in our 11th Hour for youth and adults, opportunities to serve and give to worthy mission efforts in Haiti and Nicaragua, supportive fellowship where we pray for one another in our celebrations and trials, and inspirational and challenging preaching (you may have to exaggerate a little here). Haven't you ever thought, "I wish (name) could have heard that message." Or, "(name) would have really enjoyed that piece the choir sang." Or, "My colleague at work, (name), has been going through a rough time and could sure use some friendly support from my church family." The worst that could happen if you recommended us is that they would say, "No thanks." But they'd know you cared.

So here's your assignment for Lent. Get out a three by five card (the back of a used envelope will do). Number it from one to five. Now write down the names of five people who you would like to invite to visit the church by Easter. Surely you can think of one or two. Pray for them daily during Lent, and don't hesitate to let them know that you are doing this. And look through this newsletter to find something that will recommend us to them. Trust the Holy Spirit to take care of the rest.



Richard Capron, pastor

March 2010 Worship

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



March 7
Third Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

I Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13: 1-9
Sermon: *Regarding Warnings*

March 14
Fourth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing
Daylight Savings Time Begins

II Corinthians 5: 16-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
Sermon: *God's Appeal*

March 21
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Guest Preacher: Marla Marcum, Th.D. candidate in Ecological Ethics at Boston University School of Theology; Co-lay Leader of Cambridge Welcoming Ministries; Ministerial candidate in New England Annual Conference

March 28
Palm/Passion Sunday
Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection

Luke 19: 28-40; Luke 22: 39-62
Sermon: *The Time of Trial*



LUMC Giving for Haiti

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti, LUMC has collected \$668 in offerings so far. In addition, members have assembled 37 UMCOR Health Kits valued at \$420 for a total of \$1,088 in contributions. These figures are part of the \$143,000 contributed across the New England Annual Conference and \$11 million collected from all sources by UMCOR for Haiti relief. UMCOR has also received 350,000 Health Kits for distribution. Please continue to keep the people of Haiti in your prayers during the weeks and months ahead.



OGHS Gifts Help Open UMCOR Office in Haiti

(Adapted from a UMNS article by Kathy Gilbert, news writer)

Because of your generous gifts to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering and the Haiti Relief donations, United Methodist Committee on Relief was able to open a field office in Port-au-Prince to help rebuild Haiti after the January 12, 2010 earthquake. The relief agency will be hiring five staff members to work in the Port-au-Prince office, said Sharad Aggarwal, an UMCOR executive.

Since the disaster, UMCOR has coordinated food distribution projects in Mellier and Petit-Goave, Aggarwal said. The UMCOR plan includes emergency, recovery and rehabilitation work. The emergency phase stretches from the time of the earthquake through April. It addresses the immediate needs of access to food, clean water and sanitation, temporary shelter, and emotional and spiritual support.

During the recovery phase, which is expected to run through the first-year anniversary of the disaster, UMCOR will respond to needs for increasingly permanent homes, schools, clinics and churches, along with jobs and other concerns.

The third phase, rehabilitation, will likely stretch through January 2015 and will offer assistance for both physical reconstruction and economic development as well as rebuilding health, education and other systems.

"The response of the church has been remarkable and generous," said Bishop Joel Martinez, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries interim top executive. "Even the smallest gift has the power to bless."

In the days leading up to the one-month anniversary of the quake, the seven wealthiest nations of the world, known as the G-7, agreed to forgive Haiti its outstanding debts. "The debt cancellation will give Haiti some economic breathing room," Martinez said, "but it will not solve all of the problems there."

Please continue to give generously to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering, March 14, 2010. Your gift can make a difference in the lives of those who are hurting.



Bible and Beyond: March Lenten Study

Our Wednesday evening study group is doing a Lenten study, based on *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The book is a study of the last week of Jesus' life, using the gospel of Mark as the biblical source. The following description is from www.amazon.com. "*The Last Week* depicts Jesus giving up his life to protest power without justice and to condemn the rich who lack concern for the poor. In this vein, at the end of the week Jesus marches up Calvary, offering himself as a model for others to do the same when they are confronted by similar issues. Informed, challenged, and inspired, we not only meet the historical Jesus, but meet a new Jesus who engages us and invites us to follow him."

If you are interested in obtaining the book for the Lenten study or in attending, please contact Rev. Capron or Kathy Parks. If you need childcare, contact Kathy.

March Schedule: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

February 24

The Last Week: Chapter 1, Palm Sunday

March 3

*The Last Week: Chapter 2, Monday
and Chapter 3, Tuesday*

March 10

*The Last Week, Chapter 4, Wednesday
and Chapter 5, Thursday*

March 17

The Last Week, Chapter 6, Friday

March 24

The Last Week, Chapter 7, Saturday

March 31

The Last Week, Chapter 8, Easter Sunday

All Church Game Night!

Sunday, March 21; 5:00 pm



The Witness committee is sponsoring an evening of games and pizza on Sunday, March 21 for the *whole* church family. Come join the fun! The games planned are: Guesstures, Catch Phrase, Rummikub, Scrabble, Backgammon and Cribbage. For information, contact

Shawna Johnston (781-863-2230).

Swim-a-thon Report

On February 14, four LUMC swimmers combined efforts to cover the 5.3 mile distance between the Lexington Battle Green and Concord's Old North Bridge - all in the Salem YMCA pool. Thomas Chin swam 50 laps (almost 3/4 mile). His older brother, Samuel, swam 72 laps (a full mile). Veteran swimmer Brian Johnston amazed all with his relentless flip-turns tallying 120 laps (over 1.5 miles). And Richard Capron, not to be confused with Moby Dick the great white whale, swam 216 laps (a three mile effort). In total, the Fabulous Four navigated 6.36 miles! That amounts to several times around the Battle Green before taking off for Concord. Congratulations!

Now for the money raised so far: To date, \$1269 has been received. We are rapidly closing in on the goal of \$1500 to put a new roof on the church in La Borgona so keep those checks rolling in. And THANK YOU to all who have made this event such a success!



Finance Corner

Here are the first budget numbers for the year 2010.

Total YTD income to budget through 1/31/10:

\$ 28,531.60

Total YTD income budgeted through 1/31/10:

\$ 28,166.50

Total YTD expenses by LUMC through 1/31/10:

\$ 17,945.85

Total YTD expenses budgeted through 1/31/10:

\$ 19,227.38

As you can see we are off to a sensible start with income and expenses tracking to budget expectations. As we move into Lent, consider how you can support your church not only through financial gifts but also through your ongoing prayers, presence and service.

Many thanks for everything.

- Keith Herndon, Chair, Finance

Join us for the New Tweens and Teens!

Where did the Bible come from? How do we know it's true? Who wrote it? How is it organized? If you have ever thought about any of these questions, join us for the **new Tweens and Teens** class! We will be meeting on the first and third Sundays of the month during worship for some Bible study, games and fun activities! In our first unit, we will be tackling some "Bible Basics" and answering some of the questions listed above. Hope to see you there!

Godly Play

- March 7 Children attend worship
- March 14 *God Listens When We Pray*
B. Linton, C. Corson
- March 21 *We Pray for Others*
L. Anthony, M. Thompson
- March 28 *Our Prayers in Action*
R. Lavalla, L. Kreutziger



Acolyte Schedule

- March 7 Andy Linton
- March 14 Thomas Chin
- March 21 Ryan Atkins
- March 28 Theo Lavalla

Nursery Schedule

- March 7 Theresa and Melanie Walker
- March 14 Jane Atkins, James Chin
- March 21 Michelle Woods, Kathy Parks
- March 28 Janice Herndon, Pisha Chen

Condolences

Condolences to Arthur Schramm and his daughters, Nancy and Gayle, and their families on the death of Dorothy Schramm on February 9, 2010. A memorial service was held at the church on Thursday, February 18. Notes and cards may be sent to Arthur Schramm at 16 Buckman Drive, Lexington, MA, 02421. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations in Dorothy's memory be sent to: Mt. Auburn Hospital Development Office, 330 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, MA, 02138.

"Welcome" Ian!

Since Jeanne Lucas's last Sunday, February 7, organist Ian Woods has been serving as the new Director of Music, adding direction of the Senior Choir to his organist responsibilities. *Congratulations, Ian, on this major expansion of your responsibilities!*

Ian is no novice to directing choirs. He served as Organist/Choir Director of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Mountain View, CA, from 1999 until 2004, before receiving his Ph.D. in developmental biology from Stanford University. Ian also served as organist in the First UMC of Sunnyvale while doing undergraduate work at Stanford where he graduated in 1995 with honors and distinction in both Biology and Music. Among the honors he received as an undergraduate course assistant, he was also selected as a member of Stanford's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to enrollment at Stanford, Ian played as organist in Lutheran and Presbyterian churches in Oregon. If you want to know what he does when he's not bathing Crosby, diapering Joni, or trying not to get in Michelle's way, ask him about mutagenesis in Zebra fish. He's one of the leading authorities in the world. We're just glad he is leading our choir!



Happy March Birthdays to Crosby, Katie and Ethan!



Congratulations

Johannes Neal Beckwith (7 lb., 7 oz.) was born to Ben Beckwith and Andrea Laux on Thursday, February 4, 2010!

Thank You Note

Thank you so much for the wonderful send-off on February 7, touching cards, and the generous gift! It has been a joy and a blessing making music with you at LUMC. Thank you for welcoming our family into your family.

Love, Jeanne Lucas, Josiah, and Lilly

March 2010 - Lexington United Methodist Church

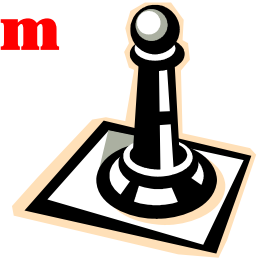
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:30 Book Club 3:00 Jazz Time 7:15 pm Nurture Cte.	3  7:30 pm Bible and Beyond	4 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 Third Sunday in Lent Holy Communion  8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am Teens and Tweens 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:30 am Finance Cte. /Ad. Council 8:00 pm 50 th Anniversary Concert at Temple Emunah	8	9 9:45 am District Committee on Ministry 3:00 Jazz Time	10  7:30 pm Bible and Beyond	11 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	12	13 2:00 pm Order of Abraham and Sarah
14 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:30 am 11 th Hour for Adults and Youth	15 7:30 pm Social Justice Endowment Cte.	16 3:00 Jazz Time	17 St. Patrick's Day  7:30 pm Bible and Beyond	18 11:00 am Witness Cte. 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 10:00 am Teens and Tweens 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:30 am 11 th Hour for Adults and Youth 5:00 pm Game Night and pizza 5:00 pm Tweens and Teens (Game Night) 	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 3:00 Jazz Time 7:00 pm Corporation Meeting	24  7:30 pm Bible and Beyond	25 8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	26 12:30 Newsletter Collation	27 8:30 – 11:15 Lexington Food Pantry
28 Palm/Passion Sunday Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care 10:00 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:30 am 11 th Hour for Adults and Youth 	29	30 3:00 Jazz Time	31  7:30 pm Bible and Beyond	April 1 Maunder Thursday  7:00 pm Worship	April 2 Good Friday	April 3 Holy Saturday
Holy Week						

March 2010 Newsletter

Rev. Richard Capron, Ph.D., Pastor
Ian Woods, Music Director
Allyson Printz, Office Administrator

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All Church Game Night!
Sunday, March 21
5:00 pm



Sunday Program

8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care
10:00 am *Godly Play* (N-5)
10:00 am Tweens and Teens (first and third Sundays)
11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall
11:30 am 11th Hour for Adults and Youth

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

