

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

May 2004

Vol. 52, No. 5

Sharing Abundant Life

2004-05 Nicaragua Fund Drive

*From Linda Rings, Chairperson of LUMC's
Nicaraguan Committee*

Jesus told us that he came so that we may have abundant life. Truly, those of us at LUMC have been abundantly blessed with the things of this world. In fact, sometimes our 'things' get in the way of having an abundant life of the spirit.

In Luke 11, Jesus says that purity is best demonstrated by generosity and chides the Pharisees for tithing but forgetting about justice and the love of God. Luke 12 has the passages about not storing up treasure on earth for you can't take it with you.

LUMC is full of people with generous spirits and open purses who use their resources to help spread the abundant life to others. Once again it is time for those of us on the Nicaragua Committee who represent you in this work of justice-making and discipleship to ask you to consider the work that we do and open your hearts and pocketbooks for the benefit of our friends in Nicaragua.

Because of YOU, nine students attend secondary school and 11 attend college. Because of YOU, a computer lab has been air-conditioned and remodeled and ten new computers have been

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Sharing Abundant Life Together - February 2004

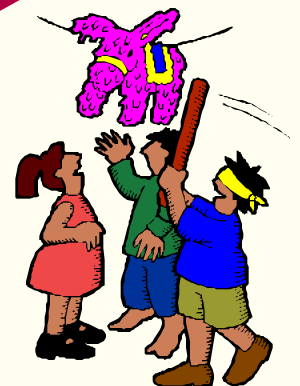
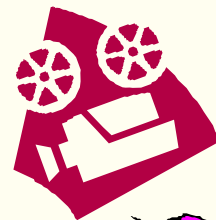
Nicaragua Culto

Save the Date! Saturday, May 15

On Saturday evening, May 15, the Nicaragua Committee is hosting a **Culto** for our church community so that you may have a chance to get to know our brothers and sisters in La Borgoña on a more personal level. Marnie Bonner took many hours of film while we were in La Borgoña in February 2004 and with the aid of Bill Santelmann, spent many hours creating a 29 minute DVD of our time in La Borgoña. The evening will start with **music and dinner** - a special feast that we were honored with in La Borgoña - chicken, rice, beans, salad, pineapple and coconut - and a little something chocolate! We will see this **DVD** and a **pinata** full of **treats** will be broken for the fun of all.

The event will take place in Martin Hall from 5:30 - 8:00 pm on May 15. The cost is \$5 per person or \$10 for a family. **Reservations are requested** so that we know how much food to purchase. Please either sign up at church or call Linda Rings - 781-643-6497 to make your reservation.

Children are especially welcomed!



May Worship 2004

May 2 Fourth Sunday of Easter Service of Word and Table Golden Cross Sunday

1 Peter 1:3 - 7, Matthew 14:22 - 33

9:15 am Praise Music, Nursery Care

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

Rev. Herb Taylor will be our guest preacher. He is CEO of the New England Deaconess Association (NEDA). NEDA was founded by Methodists in 1889 and today operates skilled nursing, residential care and independent living communities. Before this position, Rev. Taylor served churches in Wilmington and Newbury, MA. He has an MBA from Harvard Business School and a Master of Divinity from Boston. Before entering the ministry, Rev. Taylor worked as a management consultant for Arthur D. Little, Inc. in strategic planning and organizational development for U.S. and multinational corporations.

Rev. Taylor's sermon topic is *The Power of Hope*. Holy Communion will be served.

May 9 Fifth Sunday of Easter Festival of the Christian Home Mothers' Day

Psalms 25:8 - 10; John 4:4 - 15, 21 - 24

9:15 am Praise Music, Nursery Care

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

We will bid farewell to Pastor George Walters-Sleyon and offer him our blessing as he completes his internship year with us. Pastor George will preach on *Worship at the Well*. Our children's choir, under the direction of Nikki Katulak, will join its voices with the Allegra Regional Girls' Choir.

May 16 Sixth Sunday of Easter Nicaragua Sunday

9:00 am Holy Communion served in the library

9:15 am Praise Music, Nursery Care

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

We will celebrate our 12 year relationship with La Borgoña. Members of this year's delegation will offer reflections on their visit and we will launch our annual fund drive for student scholarships, medical care and support of the sewing project.

May 23 Ascension Sunday Honoring our Seniors Sunday

Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection

9:15 am Praise Music, Nursery Care

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

This year's graduation seniors will plan Sunday's worship with youth advisors Ben Beckwith and Andrea Laux. We will honor our graduates and send them forth with a blessing.

11:00 am Worship

May 30 Pentecost

11:00 am Worship with St. John's Korean UMC

12:30 pm Luncheon in Martin Hall for both congregations.

Children and youth and adults from Lexington UMC and St. John's Korean UMC will join together for worship and Sunday School. We will honor Rev. Jin Tae Kwon for his 30 years of pastoral leadership at St. John's and offer our blessing on his sabbatical and retirement. Combined choirs will join their voices to praise God in music.

Thank you, Carol Phelan

Special thanks to Carol Phelan for her creativity in decorating the bulletin board on the stairway across from the office throughout the Liturgical Seasons of the year. Each week, during Lent, she added art material in keeping with Rev. Susan's Lenten Series on *Reclaiming the Apostles' Creed for the 21st Century*.



Bulletin board created by Carol

Worship Goal: 100 adults and children in worship each Sunday

April Attendance

April 4: 120 April 11: 160 April 18: 71 April 25: 89

MAKE WORSHIP A PRIORITY OF YOUR WEEK.

From the Pastor's Study...

As this Newsletter is being compiled, I am packing my bag for General Conference. Held once every four years, this is the United Methodist Conference that defines the policies and rules and doctrines for the next quadrennium. This General Conference is taking place in Pittsburgh, PA. Since there will be four clergywomen traveling together (in Jay's new Toyota *Prius*, bless his heart!), I am packing "light." And that feels like a good metaphor for my anticipated days at General Conference.

I want to travel light because I want to leave room for openness, compassion, love, justice-making and above all, prayer. I want to save space for listening to others and listening to what God has to say through the minds and hearts of others. I want to arrive in Pittsburgh uncluttered so that when asked my perspective, I can speak simply and clearly.

The United Methodist denomination finds itself as do so many Christian denominations, at a critical time in our history. Will we be able to accept our differences and agree to disagree? Or will there be rancor and mean-spiritedness and a win/lose environment? There are a number of resolutions that would give the denomination the opportunity to acknowledge that as faithful Christians we disagree on certain issues. I pray that the Holy Spirit will be so mighty that the delegates will be moved to make a faithful witness to being a denomination of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors."

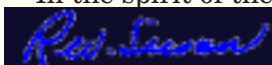
I am packing all that you have taught me during our years together in mutual ministry. I ask for your prayers that I will bear witness to Lexington UMC's integrity and inclusive spirit and faithfulness to Jesus' life and teachings during my time in Pittsburgh.

I will follow the Fair Traded Coffee petition that Lexington UMC submitted to General Conference through its legislative process and on to the floor of General Conference. What an exciting venture for our congregation!

And when I return, I will unpack my many impressions as well as the decisions that have been made by the delegates at this General Conference. Together, we will sort through these and decide how these decisions will affect our life together as a congregation in the next four years.

Thank you for your encouragement and support in this venture. I covet your prayers and give thanks for your faithfulness.

In the spirit of the Risen Christ,



Rev. Susan

Rev. Susan Attending General Conference

Rev. Susan will attend General Conference from April 29 – May 6. Follow the events at www.gc2004.org; rmnetwork.org; and mfsaweb.org. Rev. John Mueller will be on call for pastoral emergencies and can be reached at 781-646-8679.

Sharing Abundant Life

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purchased and tables built so that a school can be run that benefits the community in and around La Borgoña. Because of YOU, a doctor comes to aid the ill. Because of YOU, women are learning to sew in order to get jobs and make clothes for their families.

Over the years, many projects have been completed that make life more abundant for those in La Borgoña—a well has been dug to provide pure water, school rooms have been completed. These remain as a testimony to YOUR generosity. Other projects have been started, but fallen by the wayside—the copy shop and the bus, for example.

Our two worlds - that of La Borgoña and Lexington - are very different in their wealth, their culture, their language and customs. However, they are very much the same in that they are filled with loving people who want to have and share abundant life - material abundance and spiritual abundance.

Our relationship was never meant to be solely about money. Over the years, it has evolved in a way that allows us to receive by giving and then to give by receiving.

We are all winners. We are blessed by this relationship. Please help us to keep it going by making a pledge of your resources during the campaign. We are seeking to raise \$16,470 (you can see a more detailed budget on the Outreach page). We invite you to be a part of that with us, for favor.

I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.

(John 10:10)

Bishop Hassinger and Cabinet Make Appointments for 2004-05

Bishop Hassinger and the Cabinet have re-appointed Rev. Susan to be pastor at Lexington UMC. They have also announced the appointment of Rev. Young Bok Rha, a retired United Methodist Korean pastor from the NE Conference to be the Intentional Interim Pastor at St John's Korean UMC. It is their intention that Rev. Susan, with her interim training, will partner with Rev. Rha and assist in this transition time at St. John's. Rev. Kwon will be leaving St John's after a 30 year ministry with that congregation.

"This represents a whole new set of possibilities as the two congregations work more closely together and look toward the future as partners in ministry," said Rev. Aida Fernandez, District Superintendent.

"It provides us with the opportunity to look more closely at our own future," Rev. Susan reflected. "It is an interesting time in the life of our own congregation as well as the life of our denomination. It will be an exciting and challenging year."

Join Us at a Planning Meeting to Set Goals for LUMC for 2004-05 Program Year



The Administrative Council extends an invitation for interested members of the congregation to join in the Annual Planning Meeting where goals are set for the coming year. On Wednesday evening June 9, we will share in a Potluck Supper followed by the planning meeting. The supper will be at 6:30 pm.

Families are welcome! Child care will be provided.

Save the date on your calendar and plan to be part of this lively conversation!



Andrea Laux is Our Student Intern Next Year

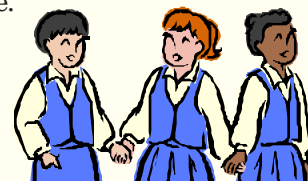
Andrea Laux will return as our Director of Christian Education and will combine her responsibilities in the area of Christian Education with her role as Student Intern. In the fall, she will work with a newly established Internship Committee and write a Learning Agreement that will define her goals. What a gift Andrea will be to LUMC! We celebrate her decision!

Girls' Choir to Share in Worship on May 9

The Allegra Regional Girls' Choir (ARGC) will participate in worship on May 9. The choir will sing during Praise Music (9:15 - 9:30 am) and also with the LUMC Children's Choir during the service.

The choir comprises 40 singers, under the direction of co-conductors Tom Brand and Rebecca Rosenbaum. These singers collectively represent the eight ensembles of the United Choir School, including the United Girls' Choirs of Branford, Hamden, Milford and Cheshire, and the Elm City Girls' Choir of New Haven (of which Dan Roehl is also a co-conductor). During the past four years, ARGC has performed annually in a December production of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet with the New Haven Ballet and the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and has appeared at various other venues in the local community.

United Choir School is a private, non-sectarian educational institution that offers musical training and performance opportunities to over 350 talented young musicians throughout Connecticut. UCS provides instruction in music theory, sight singing, and ear training within the context of eleven auditioned choral ensembles (three divisions of The Elm City Girls' Choir and eight divisions of The United Girls' Choir). The School's mission is to foster a deep commitment to the realization of personal and artistic potential and to cultivate an environment that engenders cooperation, creativity, self-discipline, and, above all, an earnest respect for all people.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

GODLY PLAY IN MAY

MAY 2	THE RISEN CHRIST
MAY 9	THE MUSTARD SEED
MAY 16	WESLEY'S QUADRILATERAL
MAY 23	JONAH
MAY 30	PENTECOST

This month, our children will experience new joy and life as we celebrate Easter and prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit! Give your child the gift of *Godly Play* this Easter Season!

WHAT IS GODLY PLAY?

Godly Play is a Christian Education program which grew out of the Montessori method of education. *Godly Play* is designed to honor each child as a spiritual person with his or her own spiritual journey and to teach children about worship and scripture experientially through the worshipful atmosphere of the classroom and the carefully told lessons.

The Challenge is STILL 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!

Youth News!

Star Wars Sunday School

Was Yoda powered by the Holy Spirit? Could Jesus use the Force?

This May and June, our Youth Sunday School class will be joining the Rebel Alliance in a battle to defeat the Imperial Army and discuss faith in the Star Wars Trilogies. Our intergalactic battle will conclude with a trip to see the last episode out in theaters this June. Come join us for fun, fellowship, and a little Wookiee!



The Youth Sunday School class meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Library.



Senior Sunday

Senior Sunday is May 23, 2004. Our graduating seniors are **Marnie Bonner, Steven Gelinas, Ari Johnston, Cindy Robinson, and Erin Stacy**. This year, reflections will be shared by Marnie, Ari, and Cindy about their experiences here at LUMC. Come join us as we celebrate graduations and send forth our seniors to a new stage of life!



A Trip to the New England Aquarium

This month the Youth Group will be journeying into Boston to visit the new jellyfish exhibit at the New England Aquarium. We will meet at the church for departure on Sunday, May 23, 2004 at 1:30 pm. The cost of admission is \$15.95. Bring a friend and join us for some fishy fun in the city.

Questions? Contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com or Ben at ben_beckwith@hotmail.com.



Adult Study Opportunities

Sunday Mornings 11th Hour

The Outreach Committee will present a program on the theme, *Abuses of Power*, on three Sundays, May 9, 16, and 23, during the Adult Education 11th Hour. Ken Kreutziger and Bill Santelmann will use video clips from Bill Moyers' NOW television broadcasts to present issues, allowing time for reflection and discussion by the group. The program schedule is as follows:

- **May 9:** Abuse of power at the Pentagon, with a viewing of "Inside the Pentagon," an interview with Chuck Spinney, an analyst recently retired after 30 years service in the Pentagon. He documents the acquisition of weapons that are often faulty, or even not needed, and slipshod accounting of funds.
- **May 16:** Abuse of women workers in developing countries by global corporations who are riding high by shortchanging them. After two decades of the unprecedented opening of world markets, some women have been beneficiaries of globalization, many more are its losers. Today, most of the world's poor are women - and most of the world's women are poor. NOW clips examine the female face of poverty in two segments:
 - In **WOMEN'S WORK**, NOW delves into the world of laborers in Thailand, where poor battle poor to secure long hours of work and low pay, and finds a hero standing up for her rights against insurmountable odds.
 - In **BROKEN PROMISES**, NOW travels to Senegal and inside a seemingly inescapable cycle of poverty to look at how policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have decimated the once-thriving education and healthcare programs and undercut women's chances for a better future.
- **May 23:** Abuse of our NPT treaty obligations from 1968 to disarm our nuclear weapons will be discussed with a viewing of **A NEW NUCLEAR AGE** from NOW. This video document presents the case for and against the development of a new, "more usable" class of nuclear weapons, called "bunker busters," in addition to the 10,000 standard weapons we already possess.

Bibles and Bagels Study

Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion of Dan Brown's popular book, *The Da Vinci Code*. The discussion will be held on Monday mornings May 3, 10 and 17 from 10 – 11:30 am in the church library. Janis Roihl has prepared an excellent Study Guide which is available in the church office. Join us for fellowship, prayer and a time of good conversation.

NQMA News

NQMA Spring Session

This May and June, the NQMA will be gearing up for a study of Faith in Short Stories. If you are looking for a challenging discussion of some of your literature favorites, consider joining us for this fun Spring Series. Please see Andrea for copies of the selected stories.



This group 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!

RETREAT!

NQMA Annual Retreat

This year the NQMA annual retreat will be at the peaceful Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford, ME during the weekend of May 14-16, 2004.

The NQMA are pleased to invite ALL that are interested in joining us for this weekend of relaxation, refreshment, and renewal! The cost is \$125 for the weekend and includes meals and programs fees - scholarships are available.

Questions? Contact Andrea at lauxaj@yahoo.com.



Marie Joseph Spiritual Center