

# The Lexington United Methodist Church

*an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation*

## Newsletter

May 2009

Vol. 57, No. 5

### From the Pastor's Study...

## Ministry to the Earth



In his recent "Partners in Ministry" letter to local congregations, Bishop Peter Weaver highlighted some of the "green" initiatives being undertaken in churches across New England. Did you know that the York (Maine) UMC produces its own electricity with solar panels - even selling surpluses to other consumers? Other churches are starting up community gardens on their property to cut back on the energy costs related to shipping produce. Locally grown tastes better, too! Many more churches are changing to CFL lighting to reduce energy consumption.

Here at the Lexington/St. John's Korean UMCs, our corporation (trustees) has been consciously strategizing to reduce energy consumption and promote greater efficiency. This past winter Igor and Allyson studied building use and developed a schedule for timing the thermostats which resulted in considerable savings. The corporation also contracted Jorge and Igor to install additional insulation in the educational wing attic. Installation of new windows in our educational wing also has helped conserve energy. As our aging oil furnace is showing a need for replacement, the corporation is now considering proposals to convert our system to natural gas. When the Hancock Church (Lexington) made a similar conversion recently, it resulted in a 30% reduction in costs.

To be sure, technological conversions are not usually cheap in the short term. But often their payback over the long term makes such changes wise. Financial people call this "return on investment." But for the more theologically or ethically minded, such as myself, it is important to consider eco-friendlier technology as a ministry to the earth. Finding less and less abusive ways to treat the creation God has entrusted to us is a moral imperative of the first magnitude. Even if the costs are high, we owe it to this wonderful planet, and to future generations who will enjoy it, to ensure that it will prosper with abundance for all. Clean air and water, healthy flora and fauna, a rich bio-diversity - these are all gifts which we can and should pass on to the future.

I hope that we can all consider and practice ways in which a change of life-style can make a better environment. But that will not be enough. We must also change our social and political life in making the necessary systemic transformation to an earth friendly way of life.

Bill McKibben, who grew up right here in Lexington, has co-founded an international movement to bring CO2 levels from the current 387 parts per million to 350 parts per million. You can learn more at [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). As Bill says, "Much as it's important to change the light bulbs in the sanctuary and in your own home, it's even more crucial now to take the political action that might bring about a big enough change in a short enough time to actually matter."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Capron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Capron, pastor

# May 2009 Worship

Worship begins at 9:15 am with Prelude,  
Gathering Music and Nursery Care

May 3 - Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion

1 John 3: 16 - 24; John 10: 11 - 18  
Sermon: Love in Truth and Action



May 10 - Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day

1 John 4: 7 - 21; John 15: 1 - 8  
Sermon: The Source of All Love

May 17 - Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Bring a Friend Sunday

Acts 10: 44 - 48; John 15: 9 - 17  
Sermon: What Makes a Friend?

May 24 - Ascension Sunday  
Acts 1: 1 - 11; Luke 24: 44 - 53

Sermon: Waiting for Power

May 31 - Pentecost Sunday  
Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection

Acts 2: 1 - 21; John 15: 26 - 27, 16: 4b - 15  
Sermon: The Guidance of the Spirit

*Taizé Prayer meets on  
May 7 and 21 at 7:00 pm  
before choir rehearsal.*



## Heritage Potluck Sunday, May 17 6:00 pm

There is a rich cultural heritage in all of us. We've planned an evening of sharing our traditions through the cuisine of our ancestors. Prepare a dish that reflects the food of your forefathers, foremothers...foreneighbors... We'll share a meal and a story or two!



For information, contact  
Shawna Johnston (781-863-  
2230).

## A Joyful Noyse presents Neapolitan Delights!



On Sunday May 17 at 3:00 pm, the early music ensemble A Joyful Noyse will present a concert of Baroque music by Neapolitan composers all with ties to the Naples' conservatoires and all displaying the verve, passion and excitement that give Neapolitan music its special character. The program will include two secular cantatas by Alessandro Scarlatti and two sonatas for recorder, two violins and continuo, one by Francesco Barbella, the other by Francesco Mancini. LUMC's Music Director, Jeanne Lucas, soprano, is a member of the ensemble.

A \$10 contribution will go to the Hancock Church Music Fund. Enjoy a sampling of delightful Neapolitan pastries after the concert! Hancock Church is located at 1912 Massachusetts Ave. in Lexington.

## Bring a Friend Sunday May 17

While it could be said that every Sunday is a good day to bring a friend to church, there will be something special about Sunday, May 17. The sermon for that day will be "What Makes a Friend?" and will be a tribute to the friendships we value most. The gospel lesson from John 15 includes these memorable words of Jesus, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Then he says, "I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."

What would you do for your friends? Would you be willing to introduce them to your church friends? Would you invite them to spend time with the best friend anyone ever had (Jesus)? Would you pick them up and bring them to worship? Would you take them to lunch afterward? Think of someone (or two) whom you would like to introduce to Ian's organ music, our wonderful choir, and our beautiful sanctuary. Even if they can't come on May 17, they will be honored by your invitation and may be able to join you on another day. Remember, every Sunday is a good day to bring a friend.

## March Potluck Dinner

### Entertaining Presentation of Child Development Project in Pune, India

On Sunday evening, March 29, 35 church members and an invited Indian couple met for a festive dinner. Julie Munro borrowed some of Alexander's toys as centerpieces for the tables resembling some of the toys our presenters took to India. After dinner everyone went to the sanctuary for a DVD presentation that included maps, photographs, charts and video. Their enthusiastic presentation generated a lively discussion. Paul Linton ensured there were no technological glitches.

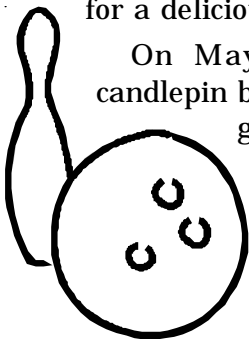
Last year our most significant Social Justice Endowment grant was awarded to two Master's candidates in Child Development at the Eliot-Pearson Department at Tufts University. Sarah Frederiksen and Ashley Everette are advocates for the positive development of children living in adverse conditions of institutionalized group-care. The organization that they worked with during their month long trip is a non-government, non-profit, charitable organization that offers foster- and group-care to children surrendered to it by local unwed mothers and impoverished families. For more details, visit <http://indiaserviceproject2008.blogspot.com/>.

## Tweens and Teens

May 17 and 31

We will be meeting twice in May. On May 17 we will have a discussion on the topic What Is God's Call? We'll be using the Student Journals (p. 20-23) that were distributed last fall. If you've lost yours, let the pastor know. The meeting will be at 5:00 pm. in the library, just prior to the Heritage Potluck Supper. (Plan to stay for a delicious assortment of foods!)

On May 31 we will do a little candlepin bowling at 6:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to our small fellowship and make our numbers grow! Keep your eyes open for further details.



## Vacation Bible School Offered at LUMC

LUMC will be offering Vacation Bible School for youth ages pre-school through Grade 6 from Monday, June 29 through Thursday, July 2, 2009 from 9:00 am – noon each day.



We will follow the "Studio GO!" curriculum created by Standard Publishing. Each day, children will learn about a person from the Bible who decided to team up with God and Go For It! - seeing how God works in the lives of those who trust Him. Specifically, we will learn about Gideon, who LEADS the Israelites to victory, Esther, who RISKS her life for God's people, the women who run to TELL that Jesus lives again, the apostles who OBEY by taking a stand for Jesus, and Ananias, who SERVES God by helping Saul. Children will participate in a daily Bible challenge, music, crafts, snacks (provided) and games, and will take part in a variety of service projects.

The Society of St. Andrew's VBS Mission: Feeding Hungry Americans will be used as the focus for one service project. Through programs such as "The Potato Project" where edible produce that normally is disposed due to cosmetic imperfections and poor market conditions is salvaged and distributed to the nation's poor, "Harvest of Hope" which teaches youth and adults about the causes and effects of hunger, and "The Gleaning Network" an effort by volunteers, growers, and distribution agencies to glean crops left in the fields after harvest and distribute to the hungry, the Society of St. Andrew bridges the hunger gap between the 35 million Americans who live in poverty and the abundance of food available to feed them. More can be learned about the Society of St. Andrew's Ministries at [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org).

The cost for the 4-day VBS program is \$10 per child, with a family cap of \$20. For more information or to download a registration form, please visit [www.lexumc.org](http://www.lexumc.org) or call the LUMC office (781-861-9301).



## Condolences

Condolences to Mary Driscoll on the death of her husband, Tom, on April 8, 2009. Notes can be sent to Mary at 11 Lake Street, Lexington, MA, 02421.

Happy May Birthdays to  
Gwen, Alexander and Katie!



## Godly Play

May 3	Children's Bible Study
May 10	Jesus and the Twelve Becky Linton, Cortney Corson
May 17	TBD Becky Linton, Mark Thompson
May 24	Pentecost Rae Lavalla, Louise Kreutziger
May 31	Wesley's Quadrilateral Lara Anthony, Cortney Corson

## Nursery Schedule

May 3	Theresa and Melanie Walker
May 10	Jane Atkins, Michelle Woods
May 17	Pisha Chen, Janice Herndon
May 24	Kathy Parks, Jane Atkins
May 31	James Chin, Julie Munro

## Book Club

The LUMC Book Club will be reading *Sea of Poppies* by Amitav Ghosh. We will meet on Friday, May 29 at 11:30 in the first floor Conference Room of the Church. New members are always welcome to join us for the discussion of a particular book or on-going. Lunch is graciously being provided by Janet Melcher.



## Service Opportunity in Boston

Saturday, June 13 is the Boston Pride Festival and United Methodist Reconciling Ministries will be staffing a booth to offer Good News to all God's children. We are looking for 2-4 people to provide table support throughout the day. If you can help, please contact Rev. Capron.

## Food Pantry News



Three people helped to keep our commitment to the Lexington Food Pantry on Saturday, April 25. Michelle Derrick picked up bakery items from Panera in Arlington Heights on Friday. Louise Kreutziger and Janet Melcher joined Michelle on Saturday morning. It's a very short time (only 2.5 hours). We hope others will join us in the coming months. We need at least three persons for the 4th Saturday during May and the summer months.

On the last Sunday of the month we collect for the Roxbury Food Cupboard. Allyson faithfully reminds us to bring our items and we faithfully forget! Thanks go to those who are bringing items for the pantry. If you forget please bring them any Sunday and place in the food box.

Saturday, May 9 brings an opportunity for all of us to spend a short time at the pantry. On May 9th, Lexington postal workers will pick up donations from mail boxes as they deliver the mail. After they finish their rounds they bring the collected items to the pantry where workers will check dates and sort food items. Help would be appreciated between 2:00 and

- Janet Melcher

## Finance Corner

Here are the budget numbers for the new year through March 2009:

Total YTD income to budget through 3/31/09:	\$ 94,653
Total YTD income budgeted through 3/31/09:	\$ 94,768
Total YTD expenses by LUMC through 3/31/09:	\$ 87,943
Total YTD expenses budgeted through 3/31/09:	\$ 88,96

Spending and revenue continue to remain in line with what was expected in the budget. And revenues continue to run slightly ahead of expenses. Nevertheless we are heading into spring and summer when contributions have gotten slower in past years. So I encourage you to keep your pledges current while enjoying the warm, sunny weather.

Many thanks for everything.

-Keith Herndon, Chair, Finance