

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

November 2005

Vol. 53, No. 10

From the Pastor's Study...

In Your presence, O God, we make our Sacrament of Thanksgiving. We begin with the simple things of our days: Fresh air to breathe, Cool water to drink, The taste of food, The protection of houses and clothes, The comforts of home. For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day! We bring to mind all the warmth of human-kind that we have known: Our mothers' arms, The strength of our fathers, The playmates of our childhood, The wonderful stories brought to us from the lives of many who talked of days gone by when fairies and giants and diverse kinds of magic held sway; The tears we have shed, the tears we have seen; The excitement of laughter and the twinkle in the eye with its reminder that life is good. For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

*- Howard Thurman
Sacrament of Thanksgiving*

Every November we are reminded to think about those things in our lives for which we are thankful, especially as we gather together as families (or urban families) and celebrate our abundance. In his prayer called *Sacrament of Thanksgiving*, The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman reminds us to be thankful for the simple things in life like fresh air, cool water, food, shelter, clothing, and the comforts of home. He also challenges us to be thankful for the things that are yet to come. Dr. Thurman encourages us to embrace the goodness of life with thanksgiving.

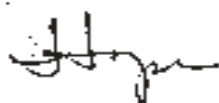
But even as we notice our abundance, even as we name our gratitude, we are confronted by pictures, stories and people in our neighborhoods and throughout the world who are without – without food, without homes, without family. We are surrounded by people who will begin this holiday season alone, in a shelter or struggling to make ends meet. We may find ourselves sitting next to someone on the bus, in the library, or even at church whose name is unknown and who may feel unimportant.

During this season of Thanksgiving, we are invited to open our hearts and our lives to one another and to share our resources, our abundance, our hope, and our gratitude with each person we encounter. This Thanksgiving, let's reach out and share the love of God with our community. Let's serve in our community soup kitchens, hand out blankets in local shelters, offer our prayers at the Thanksgiving Interfaith worship service (see page 2 for details), and share our abundance with a family or a person in need.** Please make note that our ongoing support and food collection for the Roxbury Food Cupboard is on the third Sun-

days in November and December. Also, our support and service at the Lexington Food Pantry on the fourth Saturday of each month is desperately needed. Let's reach out and share what we have received from God with each other. Let our act of gratitude change the way we live, the way we make decisions, and the way we invest our time, our resources, our very selves. And let this change be not only during the season of Thanksgiving but for the rest of our lives.

In this time of gratitude and need, remember Christ's teaching, "for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me. . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25: 35, 40).

Thanks be to God for the opportunity to share, to serve, and to care for one another.



** See page 10 for a list of local volunteer and outreach opportunities.

November 2005 Worship Schedule

November 6: 25th Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music
Nursery Care
9:30 am *Godly Play*

It's early Sunday morning and we are wondering what it takes for most of us to be "**Wide Awake**." Using the lectionary lessons from Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25, I Thessalonians 4: 13-18, and Matthew 25: 1-13, we will be invited to wake up to a world of faith. The Children's Choir and the Senior Choir will join forces to share with us a piece by André Thomas called *Keep Your Lamps*. You'll want to be awake for this one – it's one you won't want to miss.

November 13: 26th Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music
Nursery Care
9:30 am *Godly Play*

As the season of thanksgiving approaches, we are grateful for the boundless grace that God gives us without measure. This Stewardship Sunday, **Clint Fawcett**, the chair of our stewardship committee will lead us in worship and remind us of all that we have to be grateful for in life and in faith.

Nov. 20: Thanksgiving of Christ the King

9:00 am Holy Communion in the library
9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music
Nursery Care
9:30 am *Godly Play*

Combining our traditional Thanksgiving service with Christ the King Sunday, we will explore the morning's lessons in a sermon called "**Good News in Difficult Places**" using passages from Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100, Ephesians 1: 15-23, and Matthew 25: 31-46. This Sunday we will dedicate our stewardship pledges for the glory of God, and we will celebrate the opportunities these pledges provide – opportunities for a future with hope.

Nov. 20: Community Worship Service

5:30 pm With Immanuel UMC (Waltham)
and St. John's UMC (Watertown)

In the immortal words of Mr. Rogers, "Won't you be my neighbor?" we are launching a progressive evening worship service to get to know our fellow United Methodist Church neighbors from Waltham and Watertown. Beginning this Sunday, we will worship here at LUMC and in December join together in Waltham for more worship and fellowship. This is a great way to get to know the extent of our family of faith. Hope to see you this evening.

November 27: First Sunday of Advent

9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music
Nursery Care
9:30 am *Godly Play*

As we deck the halls and decorate the church with a liturgy of the Hanging of the Greens, we will hear a meditation called "**Did I Miss Something?**" based on passages from Isaiah 64: 1-9 and Mark 13: 24-37. This is service people of all ages will enjoy.



Come Prepare the Tree and Greens for the Advent Season

Something new is in the offing for this Advent Season! On Sunday, November 27, the congregation will participate in a special *Hanging of the Greens* service.

The Worship Committee will be in the sanctuary Saturday, November 26 from 10:00 am to noon setting up the Christmas tree, stringing the lights, and preparing the greens for the following day. We invite members of the congregation to join us in getting things ready to make the Sanctuary resplendent for the Advent Season. If you are willing and able to join us, please RSVP to Jane Hogan (781-259-0701).



Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

Sponsored by the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association

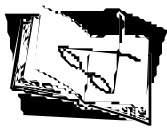
Tuesday, November 22, 8:00 pm
at Trinity Covenant Church (7 Clematis Road)

There will be an Interfaith Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm.

Join us for worship at 8:00 pm as we celebrate the blessings that we share as neighbors. Friends of many faiths will share in thanksgiving for our heritage, and pray together for our world. Invite your neighbors to share in this meaningful experience.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service. (Call 781-861-0780 for directions.)





Adult Study Opportunities

Sunday Mornings 11th Hour

God's Politics

Jim Wallis' provocative book, *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, offers a clarion call to make both our religious communities and our government more accountable to key values of the prophetic religious tradition - that is, make them pro-justice, pro-peace, pro-environment, pro-equality, pro-consistent ethic of life (beyond single issue voting), and pro-family (without making scapegoats of single mothers or gays and lesbians). These are the values of love and justice, reconciliation, and community that Jesus taught and that are at the core of what many of us believe, Christian or not.

Join us at anytime during the eight week study of *God's Politics* during 11th Hour Adult Study.

◆ November 6

Bob Miner will lead our conversation on chapters 4 through 6 in a session called *Moving Beyond the Politics of Complaint*.

◆ November 13

Join us as Andrea Laux shares insight into chapters 7 through 9, *Spiritual Values and International Relations: When Did Jesus Become Pro-War?*

◆ November 27

This week we will discuss chapters 10 through 12, *Spiritual Values and International Relations*, with Hope Luckie leading our conversation.

Alternative Christmas Options

◆ November 20

This week we will leave Jim Wallis' book behind as we seek to engage in a conversation about **Alternative Christmas** options and opportunities, challenges, and commitment.

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels will gather for study, prayer and fellowship on Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 am. We are currently viewing the *Faces on Faith* video series. Need child care? Speak to Rev. Luckie.

Afternoon Tea

Let's get together for afternoon tea in the library each Thursday at 3:30 pm. Catch up with friends, get to know new ones. This is a great way to get acquainted or re-acquainted without the constraints of time or business.



Growing Together in Grace and Generosity

Stewardship Campaign

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9: 7,8

It is indeed the season to be thankful for LUMC and for the boundless grace that God gives us without measure! This year we are invited to plant the seeds of love, to sow fields of grace, and to share the fruit of our resources with one another. Yes, we are invited to continue to *grow together in grace and generosity*. Keith Herndon gave a powerful ministry moment on October 23 about how much he loves LUMC and how much there is to love about LUMC. We can look forward to ministry moments by Kathy Parks and Pisha Chen about what LUMC means to them. I am grateful to Keith, Kathy, and Pisha for generously giving their time and talents to this year's stewardship campaign. I am also grateful to Allyson Printz, our financial secretary, for all her support.

Part of looking toward the future in hope is committing ourselves to faithful planting and hopeful cultivation of our resources. As we grow together, will you consider contributing financially to the future fruitful harvest of LUMC? When your stewardship materials arrive, take a look at the enclosed giving goal setting chart and consider giving \$1 per week to LUMC for every thousand dollars of annual household income. Please pray about your giving, fill in your pledge card, and mail your card back to the church by Sunday, November 13. On Sunday, November 20, during the morning worship service, we will dedicate our pledges for the glory of God, and we will celebrate the opportunities these pledges provide – opportunities for a future with hope.

- Clint Fawcett
Chair, Stewardship Committee

A Call to End the U.S. Military Presence in Iraq

Adopted by the UM General Board of Church & Society on October 16

As followers of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray for peace, stability, and freedom in Iraq. We believe the Iraqi peoples can and should ultimately determine how it will be achieved. It is time for the United States to appeal for international cooperation, not in waging war but in working with Iraqis of good will to set their nation on the course toward peace and prosperity.

As people of faith we raise our voices in protest against the tragedy of the unjust war in Iraq. We urge the United States government to develop and implement a plan for the withdrawal of its troops. The U.S. invasion has set in motion a sequence of events that may plunge Iraq into civil war.

Every war is a tragedy that wounds the heart of God. This particular war is especially tragic in that a bi-partisan U.S. commission appointed by President Bush and chaired by former Governor Tom Keane and former Representative Lee Hamilton has established that:

- No weapons of mass destruction were stored in Iraq;
- There was no attempt on the part of the government of Saddam Hussein to purchase uranium from the nation of Niger;
- There were no ties between Saddam Hussein and the events of September 11, 2001;
- There were no ties between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda.

Thousands of lives have been lost and hundreds of billions of dollars wasted in a war the United States initiated and never should have fought. The

United States is now morally obligated to provide the vast economic resources needed to aid in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq. The ongoing cost of the war continues to drain public resources that are desperately needed in Iraq as well as in the United States. We grieve for all those whose lives have been lost or destroyed in this needless and avoidable tragedy. Military families have suffered undue hardship from prolonged troop rotations in Iraq and loss of loved ones. It is time to bring them home.

Our opposition to the war in no way diminishes democratic ideals, traditions, or the very freedoms the men and women of the military defend. Opposition to war is not unpatriotic. We honor those who serve the common good and owe them a commitment to pursue the peaceable path that they may not be put in harm's way again.

We call upon the U.S. Congress to adopt legislation such as the "Homeward Bound Act" (H. J. Res. 55), the first bipartisan effort to bring home U.S. troops. We encourage them to make a full investigation and hold accountable those responsible for the misleading 'intelligence' and disastrous decisions that fueled this war.

We call upon the U.S. government to fully cooperate with the United Nations and its envoy and special representative in Iraq to bring about a peaceful, long-term resolution to the conflict and to rebuild Iraq.

Finally, we call upon all people of faith to pray for a just, equitable peace for the beleaguered people of Iraq and all those whose lives have been damaged by the consequences of this war.

LUMC Giant Yard Sale

A Good Time Was Had By All



Thanks to you all for your wonderful participation in our multi-faceted and multi-talented October 15 Yard Sale extravaganza. With everyone's enthusiastic help in the kitchen, at the jewelry table, the baked goods table, the furniture area, and your own individual tables, we had a great community building exercise and neighborhood outreach campaign. And we all got to have a swell time in spite of Mother Nature's dreariest efforts. And, by the way, we also raised \$1390 for LUMC.

Thanks again to everyone!

- Keith Herndon, Chair, Finance Committee

Taizé Prayer on Wednesday Evenings

6:30 pm Quiet Center - a time for individual silent prayer and meditation - come and go at will

7:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service (30 minutes)



Please note: There will be no services on Wednesday, November 23.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

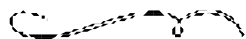
WELCOME AL PORTER!

LUMC is glad to welcome Al Porter as Christian Education Director. Al is looking forward to developing some innovative programs for all ages in an effort to stimulate growth in church membership and to making some new Christian friends.

In his early 20s, Al was the Superintendent of Sunday School and Youth Director for a church in Waltham. From 1987 - 1996, he was the Director of Christian Education, Superintendent of Sunday School and Youth Director for a church in Burlington. Al also has over thirty years of business experience in human resources, marketing, and the staffing industry as a senior level executive or entrepreneur.

GODLY PLAY

Godly Play is the curriculum LUMC uses for elementary age children's Sunday School classes. The curriculum is produced by the Center for the Theology of Childhood based in Texas, led by Rev. Jerome Berryman. Here is the description from the godlyplay.org website: "*Godly Play* is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction primarily for children aged 2-12. The goal of *Godly Play* is to teach children the art of using religious language, parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence around them and in their lives. ... *Godly Play* was developed and has been classroom tested since 1972 by Episcopal priest, author, and teacher Jerome W. Berryman. *Godly Play* is used in all regions of the United States in diverse denominations such as Episcopal, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Catholic and Presbyterian...." LUMC has used *Godly Play* as the Sunday School curriculum since 2002.



Sunday	Lesson	Teachers
11/6/05	Work Session	Kathy Parks and Jane Atkins
11/13/05	The Ark and the Temple	Rae Lavalla and Lara Anthony
11/20/05	Exile and Return	Becky Linton and Louise Kreutziger
11/27/05	Advent I: The Prophets	Kurt Gunter and Tim Gunter

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUR SPONSOR CHILD, SUNITHA YADIAH

The LUMC Sunday School classes sponsor an elementary age child at the Methodist Girls Academy in India. The offerings we collect during *Godly Play* go toward this sponsorship. As part of this sponsorship, the children collect Christmas gifts and make Christmas cards to send to Sunitha. We began sponsoring Sunitha Yadiyah in 2003. She is now 8 years old.

On November 6, we will kick off our 2005 Christmas gift campaign, to assemble gifts and cards for Sunitha. The *Godly Play* class will be making Christmas cards for Sunitha. We will also highlight this during a ministry moment.

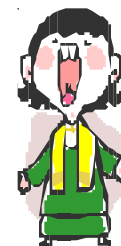
Here is how you and your child can participate: There will be a Christmas tree with "card" ornaments in Martin Hall at Fellowship time after the service for each Sunday, starting November 6 and going through November 20.

Each card ornament is a suggestion for a specific item for a Christmas gift for Sunitha. If you wish to purchase a gift for Sunitha, please take one of the cards from the tree. Purchase the gift, wrap it, and attach the card ornament to the gift (we will remove it before we ship the gifts) so that the Christian Ed committee will know which gifts we are sending. We ask that you spend no more than between \$5 and \$10 on the gift. Please bring your wrapped gift to *Godly Play* class on any of the 3 Sundays (November 6, 13, or 20), or return it directly to Kathy Parks by Sunday November 20. We will be mailing them to Sunitha on November 21.

Children's Choir Rehearsals

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to make a joyful noise with Jeanne after *Godly Play* on Sundays.

Questions? Contact Jeanne Lucas, LUMC's Music Director (jeannemlucas@hotmail.com or 781-665-6481).



Methodist Youth Fellowship

Our November Methodist Youth Fellowship group will meet on Sunday, November 6 and Sunday, November 20, from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm in Martin Hall. We have fellowship time and dinner together, and then a Bible study. Friends and newcomers welcome!

How was the October Youth Lock-in?

We held the Youth Lock-in on Friday October 14. Again, a lock-in is an overnight event at the church, where our youth and adult chaperones have fellowship, food, and fun. This year's Fall lock-in was a fun-filled evening with 9 of our Middle School and High School Youth and their friends participating. Chaperones were Ben Beckwith, Kathy Parks, Andrea Laux, and Rev. Hope Luckie. Several parents provided "emergency food supplies" to the youth and chaperones during the evening. Thank you to Carrie-Ann Gunter and TJ for the midnight snacks of ice cream sundaes. Thank you to Mark Hawk for the early morning donuts and coffee. Thank you Andrea for the morning donuts. Thank you Hope for the morning donuts. As you can see, we had plenty of donuts for breakfast on Saturday morning. The extras went to the LUMC Yard Sale volunteers.

The youth occupied two rooms, with separate sleeping arrangements for the boys and the girls. Each room was equipped with a TV, VCR, DVD-player, and one room had Playstation2 and the other had music. We showed movies on the big screen in the sanctuary ("Home Alone", "The Mummy"), and we played "Myst III: Exile" video game on the big screen. Thanks to James Swanson for driving the rollercoaster! We all enjoyed the ride! Thanks to Ben for setting up the A/V equipment in each of the rooms.

The youth played Burnout2 on the Playstation, racing and crashing cars. We also played Trivia Pursuit and Hide-and-Go-Seek-Tag in the church building until the wee hours of Saturday morning. Keith Herndon delivered additional board games – thank you, Keith! As you can see, there were plenty of fun activities for everyone.

The Youth will have another lock-in retreat in March 2006. If you would like to volunteer your time to chaperone, for part of the evening or overnight, or if you'd like to bring "emergency supplies" to the group, please contact Kathy Parks or Rev. Hope Luckie.

NQMA News

(Not Quite Middle Aged)

and

Methodist Youth Fellowship

Harvest Hunt



A challenging scavenger hunt throughout the town of Lexington by auto in search of valuable documents and bits of information ... as well as the mysterious HIDDEN SCRIPTURE...

Calling all NQMA to join our youth group for a couple of hours of discovery, spiritual nourishment and definitely a few laughs as your assigned "team" tries to outmaneuver and outthink the other teams.

A great time of fellowship - all happening on Sunday, November 20 starting at 7:00 pm in Martin Hall. An hour of hunting, followed by refreshments and "war stories" of the hunt. More details and sign-ups coming soon!

Questions? Contact Al Porter at ryadta@yahoo.com.

Holiday "Fare" Invitation

WHO: All Adults
DATE: Saturday, December 10
TIME: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
WHAT: A progressive potluck feast featuring ...

Four stops of sumptuous holiday fare to celebrate the holiday season and Christmas carols, games, reflections

More details coming soon!
Mark your calendars!

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

(a film by Robert Greenwald)

Coming to LUMC

Monday, November 14 at 10:00 am

and Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm

Did you know that if Wal-Mart were a nation, it would be one of the world's top 20 economies ahead of Israel, Sweden, and Ireland? A new Wal-Mart SuperCenter opens every 38 hours and Wal-Mart employs one of every 115 workers in America. Wal-Mart has an enormous influence on all facets of business — manufacturing, trade, communications, transportation.

Did you know that if you're one of Sam Walton's four heirs or his wife, your annual dividend payout is about \$176,000,000. In spite of that fact we, the American people, are financing much of Wal-Mart's workers "health plan/no plan" because so many workers receive wages low enough to qualify for Medicaid.

Robert Greenwald has focused his camera lens on Wal-Mart and the picture is not pretty. His new documentary *Wal-Mart – The High Cost of Low Price* will premier in homes, community centers, and churches across the nation and around the world the week of November 13. **We will have two showings at LUMC: Monday, November 14 at 10:00 am in the library and Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.**

Did you know that Wal-Mart is the world's largest jeweler? The largest seller of toothpaste? and so many more products that impact mom and pop stores of every kind.

The film takes viewers on a deeply personal journey into the everyday lives of families struggling to fight Goliath.

According to WalMart watch.com: What's the matter with Wal-Mart? Consider these facts:

- ▲ Wal-Mart fails to cover 60% of their workers with any health insurance
- ▲ 70% of Wal-Mart merchandise is from China
- ▲ When Wal-Mart comes to town, for every two jobs it creates, three jobs are lost.

The way Wal-Mart runs its business has accelerated the outsourcing of U.S. manufacturing jobs overseas, lowered working standards at home, and shifted the burden of caring for their employees to

U.S. taxpayers. **Wal-Mart's low prices have come at a high cost.**

Not since the days of the British East India Company as the cornerstone of the British imperial system, has one single corporate entity been responsible for so much misery. At the core of its policy, Wal-Mart demands of its suppliers that they sell goods to Wal-Mart at such a low price, that they can only do so by outsourcing their work to low-wage factories overseas. This causes the exodus of millions of production jobs from the United States and the setting up of slave-labor concentration camps around the globe. Wal-Mart's policy includes crushing living standards in America, forbidding its workers from unionizing, bringing in workers illegally from abroad, and bankrupting tens of thousands of stores and outlets on Main Street.

When one store in Canada managed to unionize, Wal-Mart closed the store.

For more information, go to <http://www.walmartmovie.com>.



Equal Exchange Coffee Sales

for Delivery at the Alternative
Christmas Market

Orders Due: Sunday, November 27
Distribution: Sunday, December 4

For your convenience and in support of third world family farmers, the Outreach Committee is having the sale of Fair Traded Coffee and other items in time for our Alternative Christmas Market. See the attached orange order form for items and prices that must be returned to the Outreach mailbox or to Ken Kreutziger by Sunday, November 27.

REACHING OUT. . .

CAROLYN HUNT WRITES ABOUT KATRINA

Dear Friends,

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your extraordinary support. Because of your generosity, and the generosity of other friends in the Boston area, we have been able to distribute over \$3,000 in gift cards to some wonderful people who truly need a hand.

Here are the people you have helped. Many are the workers who originally built our house in Slidell and are now helping us clean up and rebuild. Most were living in the Biloxi/Gulfport area when Katrina hit. A few are people we met under other circumstances in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast. All are good, hard-working men and women who are struggling under difficult circumstances to support their families and rebuild their lives:

Alejandra and her husband and 1 child - house flooded

Alfrado and his wife and 2 children - house flooded; lost car

Allie and her husband and 1 child - lost everything

Angelo and his wife Lil (in their 70's) - lost everything

Annette and her husband and 4 children - both lost jobs and are running out of money

Armondo - apartment damaged; lost car

Casey - lost car and clothes

Celestino - lost everything

Daniel and his wife (7 months pregnant) - lost everything

Dean - lost everything

Fernando - lost everything

Harry and his wife and child - lost job and trailer

Hector (single dad) and his 10-year-old son - house flooded; lost car

Jose-Louis - lost everything

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson (in their 70's) - lost everything

Louis and his wife and extended family - house flooded

Marcos - lost everything

Marshall and his wife and 1 child - house flooded

Mel and his wife and 2 children - lost job and car

Mona (single mom) and her 2 children - apartment flooded; lost car

Pamela and her husband and 4 children (all under 10) - trailer destroyed; husband injured and still in hospital

Ramiro - apartment damaged; lost car

Richie and his wife and daughter - apartment flooded; lost everything

Sandra (single mom) and her 2 children - house flooded

Shannon and his wife and 2 children - lost house

Sid and his wife and dog - house flooded

And here's why your help means so much right now:

Many of those we're giving cards to are still trying to figure out what aid is available to them and how to apply for it.

Phone and mail service to the area continues to be spotty. Some haven't been able to reach their insurance companies yet, and some who have put in a claim have already been told they won't receive anything because their damage is flood-related. It continues to be impossible to reach FEMA on the telephone, so really the only way to register for assistance from them is over the internet.

But what about those who don't have a computer? Or even a reliable phone line? Once you do register with FEMA, you receive an astonishing amount of paperwork in the mail to fill out and return. What if mail isn't being delivered to your neighborhood? What if you're someone who can't complete such complicated forms? How do you cash an aid check without ID? Several of our workers lost all of their ID in the floods and are still waiting for replacement copies.

The Red Cross was absolutely fantastic right after the hurricane, with emergency shelter/food/clothing, and there's no doubt that they saved many, many lives. It's less clear whether they will continue to provide help to those who have found temporary homes with friends or family while trying to rebuild their own homes and lives. We're told that the current wait in line at the Red Cross Help Centers around Gulfport/Biloxi is approximately 6-8 hours.

In the midst of this great mess, your gift cards are buying daily groceries and medicines and tools and gas and plywood. You're giving immediate help and sustenance. For that, and for your friendship, support, prayers and good wishes, thank you and bless you!

Much love,
Carolyn Hunt (LUMC member)

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REACHING OUT. . . OUTREACH NEWS

Our response to Hurricane Katrina took the form of 8 complete health kits and 8 partial kits, 12 gift cards of \$25-50 each, in addition to all the contributions made by parishioners to UMCOR and various other charitable organizations.

Please continue to support the Lexington Food Pantry by volunteering your services for 2 hours once each year. Sign up on the sheet on the Outreach Bulletin Board in Martin Hall.

The Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association continues to raise funds to rebuild homes destroyed by the tsunami last January. Contributions to that effort may be made to the collection plate. Please note "tsunami rebuilding" on the check or envelope.

We will be showing the Wal-Mart movie "The High Cost of Low Price" on Monday, November 14 at 10:00 am in the library and on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary to be followed by coffee and conversation in Martin Hall. Before we do our holiday shopping, this film may indeed inform some of our decisions. The public will be invited.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Mark December 4 on your calendar and come shop and bring your friends.

Some of the organizations that will be represented are Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, REACH-Waltham Women's Shelter, and Amnesty International. There will be cards and gift certificates available.

Crafts from Nicaragua will be sold to aid our sister church in La Borgoña and Fair Traded items from Equal Exchange will be available.

Janet Melcher

NICARAGUA FUND DRIVE THANKS

Thank you for your continued support for our work in La Borgoña, Nicaragua. We now have received/pledged \$15,905.83 for fiscal year 2006 (7/1/05-6/30/06) bringing us within sight of our \$16,000 goal! **Thank you, thank you, thank you!** (If you can help us close the gap, please consider making a pledge or a contribution designated "Nicaragua" at any time.)

It's That Time of Year Again!

Advent Material Aid Collection for Nicaragua

December 4 and 11

We invite you to make any of the following contributions to our Advent collection on December 4 and 11. Material aid is one way we can make a significant difference to those who live in poverty.

Health

- Antibiotic ointment
- Band-aids
- Cotton balls
- Headache and cold remedies
- Shampoo and soap
- Combs
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Vitamins (children and adult)

Sewing supplies

- Buttons
- Metric measuring tape
- Needles
- Pinking sheers
- Pins
- Sewing scissors
- Thread

School Supplies

- Crayons and markers
- Backpacks
- Notebooks and paper
- Pens (especially "click" pens)
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpeners

Clothing

- (new or like new)**
- Shirts/blouses
- Shoes/sneakers
- Slacks/jeans
- Socks
- Underwear
- Sneakers



If it is easier for you to make a donation, we will use that money to purchase the needed supplies. Your check can be made out to LUMC (indicate Nicaragua-Material Aid on the note line) and placed in the offering plate.

- Linda Rings

Local Volunteer and Outreach Opportunities

Local Shelters

Boston Rescue Mission
617-482-8819
www.brm.org

Casa Myrna Vasquez
617-521-0100
www.casamyrna.org

Haley House / Boston Catholic Worker
617-236-8132
www.haleyhouse.org

Pine Street Inn
617-482-4944
www.pinestreetinn.org

Rosie's Place
617-442-9322
www.rosies.org

St. Francis House
617-542-4211
www.stfrancishouse.org

Women's Lunch Place
617-267-1722
www.womenslunchplace.org

Somerville Homeless Coalition, Inc.
617-623-6111
www.somervillehomelesscoalition.org

Soup Kitchens

Women's Lunch Place
617-267-1722
www.womenslunchplace.org

Immanuel United Methodist Church
781-893-7250
www.gbgm-umc.org/immanuel-waltham/

Food Pantries

Lexington Food Pantry
Church of Our Redeemer
781-862-6408

Roxbury Food Cupboard

Immanuel United Methodist Church Food Pantry
781-893-7250
www.gbgm-umc.org/immanuel-waltham/

thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginably You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes
of my eyes are opened)

- e.e.cummings

Finance Corner

Total 2005 receipts to LUMC through 9/30/05:
\$194,171

Total 2005 expenditures by LUMC through 9/30/05:
\$195,073

Total 2005 expenditures budgeted through 9/30/05:
\$196,812

Revenues are still (almost) covering expenses and are still in line with our 2005 budget. But as we come up to the end of the year the only way for our budget to stay on track is for LUMC members to stay on track with their pledges. So, if you do find that you are behind on your pledge, please consider catching up next Sunday. And also please consider pledging generously for 2006 as part of our ongoing our Stewardship campaign *Growing Together in Grace and Generosity*.

Thanks again for everything,

-Keith Herndon
Chair, Finance Committee

Concerns and Celebrations

Condolences to Gerry McLeod, his daughter, Rebecca, and their family on the death of Dottie McLeod on Sunday, September 25. A memorial service was held in the church on October 1.

Condolences to Hope Luckie and her family on the death of her grandmother, Ruth Cole, who died on Saturday, October 1.

Letters, Notes, Emails

The family of Dorothy McLeod wishes to express our appreciation and thanks to all of you for your kind expressions of sympathy and concern during this difficult period. Your many cards and other support have meant so much to all of us. We particularly want to thank Rev. Hope Luckie, Allyson Printz, Shawna Johnston, Smoki Fraser and the members of the Church choir who contributed to Dottie's memorial service.

- *McLeod Family*

Thank you! For all your thoughts, prayers, and the many cards you've sent as we celebrate Gen Phelan's life. We're very appreciative of this community as we've stared down many months of her struggle with ALS; your visits and your culinary treats helped enormously along the way. Thanks too, to Shawna and her team in the kitchen who helped prepare a lovely luncheon after the service; to Jeanne for sharing her lovely voice, and to Hope for her many visits. The Phelan and Fahey families are so very grateful to you all.

- *Phelan and Fahey Families*



Dear LUMC family,

As you know, the last month has been full of challenges. The month of October has been particularly challenging for me with the death of my grandmother. After spending time at

home (in Florida) for her funeral and attending to details, I was overwhelmed to return and be embraced with so much love and concern. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, your graciousness and your prayers. I appreciate you!

- *Hope Luckie*

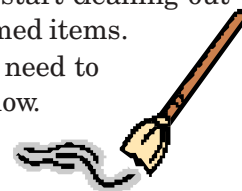
•••••
• **December Newsletter Articles due** •
• **Monday, November 14, 2005** •
•••••

Methodist Weekday School "No Parking" Sign

The new MWS sign that many of you have noticed at the entry to the parking lot is not intended for the church or its users. It is directed at Hastings School families who use the church's lot. The sign is an attempt to ensure ample parking during drop-off and pick-up times for MWS families.

Church Attic Clean Out Opportunity

Now is your chance to get up in the church attic and label any objects that belong to your group (the office will provide tags). After Sunday, December 4, David Babbidge, sexton, will start cleaning out and removing all the old, unclaimed items. Also, if you know of things that need to be removed, please let David know.



LUMC Book Club

December 5, 7:30 pm

The Christmas Train by David Baldacci is the Book Group's choice for its December 5 meeting at Smoki Fraser's home at 7:30 pm (32 Winchester Dr., 781-862-7394). Barnes and Noble on the Middlesex Turnpike in Burlington has several copies of the book on hold for \$5.99 (+ tax) until November 4. Ask for the book by name at the sales desk and give Shawna Johnston's phone number (781-863-2230) as a reference in order to receive her membership discount.

Senior Choir Rehearsal



Thursdays

7:30 pm!

Choir Room



Questions? Contact Jeanne Lucas, LUMC Music Director (781-665-6481 or jeannemlucas@hotmail.com).

FutureSearch Report from the LUMC Steering Committee

The Internal Organization Taskforce proposal will be voted on at the November Annual Charge Conference. Once the proposal has been presented for a vote, the Internal Organization taskforce's FutureSearch mission will be completed and the taskforce will disband.

The Outreach Taskforce has merged the FutureSearch work into the Outreach committee's focus for the 2006 program year, continuing with social justice issues abroad and increasing focus on local opportunities for outreach. The Outreach Taskforce has disbanded and the work is now being done through the Outreach committee.

2010 Taskforce	Chairperson
Growth and Membership Diversity	Rae Lavalla
Outreach	Bill Santelmann
<i>Mission Completed: October 2005</i>	
Web Team ("Communication")	Kathy Parks
Fun Cluster	Linda Rings
Finance, Partners; Steering Committee	Keith Herndon
Children/Youth/Young Adult and Intergenerational Programming	Clint Fawcett
Worship and Music	Eric Shank
Internal Organization	Hope Luckie
<i>Mission Completed: November 2005</i>	

FutureSearch FAQ (frequently asked questions)

What is the Future Search Steering Committee?

The FutureSearch Steering Committee exists to support the 2010 Taskforces in their work, as well as keep the Vision for LUMC in the forefront of our activities. The Steering Committee provides guidance to the taskforces, helps resolve problems, and ensures that the lines of communication among the 2010 taskforces and LUMC committees are open. If you need assistance in your taskforce, or have questions, please contact any of the members of the Committee: Mackie Corson, Smoki Fraser, Keith Herndon, Becky Linton, Kathy Parks

What's the difference between a Taskforce and a Committee?

The 2010 Taskforces brainstorm on ideas to move us toward our vision for 2010. They bring those ideas to the existing LUMC Committee (Worship, Christian Ed, Outreach, Finance, etc) and the

committees determine whether the ideas fit into the program for that committee for this year. The existing committees perform the business of the church; the taskforces provide ideas. Taskforces can assist in implementing the ideas, if the existing committee agrees to this. Otherwise, they are not expected to implement their ideas, but to work through the existing committees to get things done.

What if the membership of the Taskforce is the same as the Committee? Can we just roll them into one group, one meeting?

The Taskforces were intended to provide out-of-the-box ideas for moving the church toward our vision for 2010. The Committees are busy performing the business of the church. If you feel that your group can accomplish both, that is up to your Committee and Taskforce: whatever your group feels is reasonable. But you will still be expected to provide a FutureSearch Taskforce report at the All-Church meeting(s) on our progress. *Suggestion:* If you want to hold one meeting, set a clear agenda for covering Committee business (in the first half, for example) and cover Taskforce business in the second.

When is a Taskforce's mission complete? How long do we have to keep meeting?

The Taskforces missions are complete when you determine that you've met the goals established for it. The goals were the output from the FutureSearch weekend. Some taskforces will fulfill their missions within a few months of working; other taskforces will continue to operate for several years. Some taskforces will meet sporadically throughout the 2005-2010 timespan, as FutureSearch goals need to be revisited with standing committees.

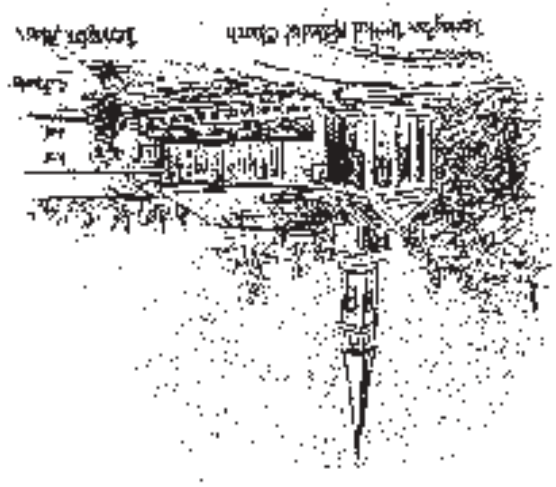
More Questions?

Please contact any of the members on the FutureSearch Steering Committee if you have FutureSearch questions not answered here.

- FutureSearch Steering Committee
Keith Herndon (leader), Mackie Corson, Smoki Fraser, Becky Linton, Ken Kreutziger, Kathy Parks

November 2005 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Important Dates to Save in Your Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Worship Service with Immanuel UMC (Waltham) and St. John's (Watertown) UMC: Nov. 20, 5:30 pm at LUMC Lexington Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship (hosted by Trinity Covenant): November 22, 8:00 pm Alternative Christmas Market: December 4 Book Club (Frasers'): December 5, 7:30 pm Amnesty International Letter Writing: December 11 		1 All Saints Day 9:30 am District Committee on Ministry 6:30 pm Capital Campaign Meeting (Brockton, MA)	2 Noon Lexington Interfaith Clergy Assoc. 6:30 pm Quiet Center 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer 7:30 pm Worship Committee	3 3:30 pm Afternoon Tea 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Membership Cultivation Meeting	4	5
6 25th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study: <i>God's Politics</i> 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries 5:30 pm Methodist Youth Fellowship	7 10:00 am Bible and Bagels 6:00 pm Outreach (Santelmanns')	8	9 6:30 pm Quiet Center 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer 7:30 pm Christian Education Meeting	10 3:30 pm Afternoon Tea 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	11 Veterans' Day (Office Closed)	12
13 26th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study: <i>God's Politics</i> 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	14 December Newsletter Deadline 10:00 am Bible and Bagels with Wal-mart Movie showing in the Library	15 7:30 pm Wal-mart Movie Showing in Sanctuary	16 6:30 pm Quiet Center 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer 7:30 pm Joint meeting Steering Committee and 2010 Finance Taskforce	17 3:30 pm Afternoon Tea 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	18 12:30 pm Newsletter Collation	19
20 Thanksgiving of Christ the King Sunday 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Communion in the library 9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study: <i>Alternative Christmas</i> 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries 5:30 pm Community Worship Service with Immanuel UMC and St. John's UMC 5:30 pm Methodist Youth Fellowship 7:00 pm Harvest Hunt <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection</div>	21 10:00 am Bible and Bagels	22 7:00 pm Lexington Interfaith Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Lexington Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship hosted by Trinity Covenant	23	24 Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)	25 (Office Closed)	26 9:00 – 11:00 Lexington Food Pantry 10:00 – 12:00 Pre-hanging of the Greens Set-Up 
27 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music; Nursery Care 9:30 am <i>Godly Play</i> (N - 5) 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Adult Study: <i>God's Politics</i> 5:00 pm Cambridge Welcoming Ministries	28 The Methodist Weekday School has discontinued all food from all rooms due to children with severe nut and egg allergies. Please NO FOOD in MWS rooms on the first floor wing of Rehearsal. Thank you!	29 10:00 am Bible and Bagels Corporation Meeting	30 6:30 pm Quiet Center 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer 7:30 pm Staff Parish Relations Cte.			



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Our Fall Sunday Program

- 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Worship begins with Praise Music;
Nursery Care
- 9:30 am *Godly Play* (N - 5)
- 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall
- 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am Adult Study
- 5:30 pm Methodist Youth Fellowship



November 2005 Newsletter

Rev. Hope N. Luckie, Minister

Jeanne Lucas, Music Director

Al Porter, Christian Education Director

David Babbidge, Sexton

Allyson Printz, Office Administrator

Telephone 781-861-9301

Fax 781-861-7228

Website www.lexumc.org

Office Email office@lexumc.org



Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

Hosted by Trinity Covenant Church
(7 Clematis Road)

Sponsored by the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association

Tuesday, November 22, 8:00 pm

There will be an Interfaith Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm.