

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

September 2006

Vol. 54, No. 8

From the Minister's Study...

Ever have a truly inspired idea? Well, I did just the other day when I was in my place of inspiration. No, it wasn't at church. It wasn't even at the ocean (and most of you know how much I love the ocean). It was, in fact, in the shower. Yes, the shower is my place of greatest inspiration. It is the place where I go over my day, plan my schedule, make my "to do list," and get myself ready for the day's adventure. Just the other day I had an "ah-ha" moment, a moment of inspiration, in the shower.

Throughout the summer, I thought about how we can move forward into a new year embracing our present identity as a small, loving church. I spent time contemplating memories of our church's vibrant past. I considered the present reality of our gently declining membership and participation. I dreamed of our future hope to continue being the loving, generous community we are and that we have been called to be.

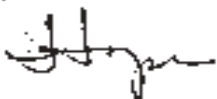
As I thought about our church, I could understand Paul's description of the community in Corinth that was wrestling with the issue of size and importance in the 12th chapter of his first letter. In this chapter, Paul stresses that in one body all the parts are important. He writes, "A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. Its all the *different-but-similar* parts arranged and functioning together. The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we recognize and the parts we don't, the parts whose work we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and also in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into exuberance. You are the body of Christ – that's who you are!" (I Corinthians 12: 14, 24b-27).

So, through the combination of reflection and prayer and, of course, the shower, I had an epiphany. As we move forward into our new year, with new programming, embracing our new identity as a loving church family with a diverse and wonderful membership, we are the image of the Body of Christ. We are ONE: One Family, One Faith, One Life, One Love. Reflecting this ONE-ness, we are developing programming for all ages, as well as education and fellowship opportunities for everyone. In our ONE-ness, we are asking you to participate in worship as a family to help lead worship, to serve as greeters, to offer refreshments for fellowship hour, and to work together at the Lexington Food Pantry.

At the beginning of this reflection are the words from the U2 song, "One," that say, "*One love. One blood. One life with each other sisters and brothers; One life: But we're not the same. We get to carry each other. One.*" Friends, we are ONE: carrying each other, loving each other, challenging each other, and sharing our lives with each other. We are ONE family sharing the ONE faith proclaimed in our baptisms. We are ONE body, the Body of Christ, called to share ONE life and ONE love with the world.

Believing that no one is outside of God's love, that in God we are all ONE, we begin this faithful journey together to make our ONE-ness a tangible reality in world, especially here at Lexington United Methodist Church.

We're one,
but we're not the same.
We get to carry each other.
One: One love, One blood; One life:
You got to do what you should.
One life: With each other,
sisters, brothers;
One life: But we're not the same.
We get to carry each other.
One.
— U2, "One"



ONE in Worship

9:15 am Worship begins with Prelude & Gathering Music; Nursery Care
Each ONE ... Bring ONE ... Each Week ... Bring ONE ... Each ONE

September 3: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Life of Faith: Inside and Outside

*Song of Solomon 2: 8-13; Psalm 45; James 1: 17-27;
Mark 7: 1-23*

Service of Word and Table

This summer we have been worshipping in a freer, simpler, friendlier and less formal way. It is a good thing, too, because throughout the summer we have been listening to some very difficult and troubling texts. This week we will chew on Jesus' teaching about what we take into our bodies and what comes out of our hearts. Together we will wrestle with the life of faith – inside and outside. So, if you're around this Labor Day weekend, dress comfortably, bring a friend and join us for worship.

HOMECOMING!

September 10: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

ONE Family: Everyone Included,
Everyone in Service

*Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125;
James 2: 1-17; Mark 7: 24-37*

Homecoming Sunday with Fellowship
and Games on the Lawn

Homecoming Sunday is the day we come back together after a summer spent resting, relaxing, vacationing, sunning, having fun, and restoring ourselves and we head into another adventure-filled year here at church, in school, at work and around town. The Senior Choir will lead us in worship with festive music. Church School teachers, assistants, and students will be blessed by the congregation. From the youngest to the oldest, we will join together as **ONE** family singing, sharing, and rejoicing in worship. Oh, yeah, there will also be bubbles

... so, bring yourself and your family, and join our **ONE** family for celebration and joy.



September 17: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

ONE Faith: Believers, Questioners,
Questioning Believers

*Proverbs 1: 20-33; Psalm 19; James 3: 1-12;
Mark 8: 27-38*

Continuing with our theme of **ONE**, we will participate in a conversation about our faith in which there is plenty of room for believers, questioners, and questioning believers. Wherever you may fall on this spectrum, know that you are always welcome here.

September 24: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

ONE Journey: Fellow Pilgrims

*Proverbs 31: 10-31; Psalm 1; James 3: 13-4: 8;
Mark 9: 30-37*

Anyone who has traveled around Massachusetts, New England, the United States, or even the world, knows that sometimes it is more comforting to travel with a partner – someone who knows his way, someone who can share her experience, someone who understands different languages and cultures, someone who can read a map. This Sunday, we will join together as fellow pilgrims on our **ONE** journey of faith. Please bring a companion and join us for worshipful adventure.

ONE in Liturgy

Each Sunday morning a family will be invited to help lead the worship service, greet people at the beginning of the service and welcome people downstairs to fellowship following the service. Families may be small nuclear ones, extended and multi-generational ones, or they may be families made up of single-people like me, an urban family, even a family of 50-year-olds. The variety and kinds of families that will be asked to help on Sunday mornings will reflect the diversity of our **ONE** family. If you would like to participate in this way, please talk with Bernice von Saleski after the service. I pray that you and your family (however you wish to define family) will share your **ONE**-ness with us on Sunday mornings.

- Hope



ONE in Nurture

11th Hour

Opportunities for Everyone

Who said church school is just for children? Church school isn't all crayons and crafts, it is for God's children of all ages (like the "Time for the Child in All of Us" during worship). Here's how we are going to share the gift of education and fellowship with each other during the 11 o'clock hour on Sunday mornings:

11th Hour for Children

With voices, bodies, and a whole lot of love, all our children from toddlers to 6th grade will sing songs, play instruments, learn scripture passages and prayers and have a BLAST getting to know God and one another. It will be a great hour of growing in faith and fellowship.

11th Hour in the Parlor

While our children are having fun, we will be stretching our hearts and minds around understanding our faithful response to the issues of environmental justice using the book *Plan B 2.0*. See Ken Kreutziger's invitation on this page for a full description of this program with dates and leaders. Join us for a wonderfully provocative Sunday morning study.

11th Hour in Hope's Office

If 11th hour for Children and/or Adults does not seem to fit for you, we have an alternative: join us for *Soul Feast*. This delightful and fulfilling study will be a smorgasbord of soulful tastes and spiritual textures. From cultural relevance to personal relationship, from hospitality to self-examination, from Bible study to prayer, we will explore all the ways in which we grow in faith and live out our faith in a non-threatening, non-scary way in the world. This study is appropriate for all ages.

PLAN B 2.0

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring the study of one of the most important books written on the environment. It provides a comprehensive look at where things stand today in the world's relationship to mother earth, the crises we now face, and what we can do about it. The book is ***Plan B 2.0; Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble*** by Lester R. Brown published in 2006 and sponsored by the Earth Policy Institute, a non profit environmental research organization providing a vision of an eco-economy and a roadmap on how to get from here to there. Arrangements are being made for purchase of books.

There will be six sessions this fall in October to December and eight sessions after the Christmas holidays in 2007. Various interested members of the church will lead each session at 11th Hour Sunday School for adult education. Those of you who didn't get a chance to volunteer to lead a session this fall will have an opportunity to lead one in the new year.

Date	Chapter	Leader(s)
Oct. 15	1. <i>Entering a New World</i>	Ken Kreutziger
Oct. 22	2. <i>Beyond the Oil Peak</i>	Jane Hogan
Oct. 29	3. <i>Emerging Water Shortages</i>	Gerry McLeod
Nov. 12	4. <i>Rising Temperatures & Rising Seas</i>	TBA
Nov. 19	5. <i>Natural Systems Under Stress</i>	Carol Phelan
Dec. 10	6. <i>Early Signs of Decline</i>	Bernie Greenberg

- Ken Kreutziger
Outreach Study Organizer

First Sunday is Family Sunday

On the first Sunday of each month, we will gather as ONE family for worship - adults and children - to celebrate Holy Communion. On these Sundays, we are intentionally suspending *Godly Play* and 11th Hour activities so that we may spend joyful time as a family.

The Nurture Committee's role is to nurture the congregation through worship, education, faith formation and to support and encourage our personal commitment to our membership in this church through our prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Bible and Bagels

Are you hungry? Tired of the same old potluck suppers? Does anyone really like leftovers? Are you in need of some spiritual nourishment? If you are awake, have time and are looking for a mid-morning Bible Study and fellowship with hot coffee and good food for the body and the soul, then join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Parlor for a study that is guaranteed to feed your mind and your spirit. If you need child care to join us, please speak with Hope.

ONE in Nurture

Godly Play

Ever wonder what happens when the children eagerly exit the sanctuary for their own wonderful world of wondering, feasting and praying? Following the "Time for the Child in All of Us," the children enter the wondering and wonderful world of *Godly Play*, the Montessori-style classroom approach to Sunday school. Our *Godly Play* class is for children ages 4 to 11 years and is taught in room 22 on the second floor of the church. In *Godly Play*, our children learn Bible stories and get to wonder about where God is in the story and in their lives. They join in a feast of grace and pray for each other and each other's families. *Godly Play* is a place and a time where wondering and play are indeed Godly. Adults can experience *Godly Play* by serving as a door person. Contact Jane Hogan for more information.

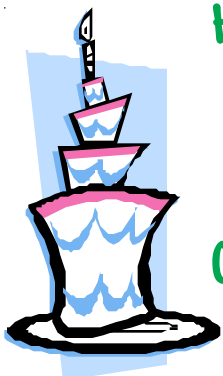
September Godly Play

Sunday	Lesson	Teachers
9/17/06	<i>How the Church Tells Time</i> Becky Linton and Louise Kreutziger	
9/24/06	<i>Creation</i> Rae Lavalla and TBD	

Nursery Care Schedule

9/3/06	Jane Atkins and Janice Herndon
9/10/06	James Chin and Katie Fahey
9/17/06	Theresa and Melanie Walker
9/24/06	Mark and Andrew Hawk

If you cannot be in the Nursery on your appointed morning, please exchange with someone else. If that cannot be done, call Jane Atkins at 781-652-0155 or Jane Hogan at 781-259-0701 so that a substitute can be arranged.



Happy September Birthdays to Lucas, Sophie, Olivia, James and Melanie!

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



If you loved the very merry un-birthday party during the summer, then you will LOVE Sunday evenings and ... MYF, where fun happens and food is consumed. Join us on Sunday, September 10 at 5:30 pm for a mini-golf tournament with pizza and goodies to follow. We'll meet at the church and return with enough time for you to finish any last minute homework you have for school the next day. Join us for another fun-filled MYF afternoon on Sunday, September 24. Same time! Same place!

Afternoon Tea



You are invited for a warm cup of tea, a plate full of goodies, and rich (sometimes raucous) conversation each week this fall on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in the Parlor. Bring a neighbor and enjoy the afternoon with a cup of tea with friends.

LUMC CHOIR REHEARSALS
RESUME THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7
7:30 - 9:00 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!



ONE in Prayer

in Study

Wednesday is Healing and Wholeness Night at LUMC. Beginning September 13, Taizé prayer and Bible study will bring together the LUMC family on Wednesday nights. The sanctuary will be open for quiet candle-lit reflection from 6:45 pm and we will pray together in song, word, and silence beginning at 7:00 pm. Hope will lead Bible study at 7:30 pm following the prayer service. All are invited to join in this peaceful and replenishing time.

ONE in Outreach

Fall Visit to La Borgoña

The Nicaragua Committee met in June, July, and August.

First, we thank you so much for providing \$13,000.00 for the work in Nicaragua in fiscal 2007. In light of all the church faces financially, this is a most generous act on your part.

We are planning a Fall visit to La Borgoña to make them aware of the amount of money we have to work with and then to work with them to establish priorities and to assist them in making budget adjustments. In a way, this provides an opportunity for us to continue efforts to broaden the decision-making authority and to nudge it away from just the pastor and move it toward the pastor and the “committee of the brotherhood” (COHE) that is ostensibly the decision making authority in La Borgoña. This committee was created by the folks in La Borgoña (not us) so, if we can gently assist them in fulfilling their established role, this may well be a very good thing for our relationship.

We are looking forward to a Fall reception at the church for Marnie Bonner and Jairo Lopez who were recently married in La Borgoña. With one member from our congregation and one member from theirs, we look upon this not only as a marriage of the two individuals but also as a symbolic marriage of the two congregations.

On a personal note, I have been seeking a congregation in the town in which I live since I retired in 1994. This church has made it very difficult to leave because of the people and the causes in which you are involved. However, after 12 years, Linda and I have decided it's time to relocate locally so I am leaving the Nicaragua Committee and we will depart the church sometime in the Fall. Thank you for enriching our lives and lighting our way.

With respect and love,
Bob and Linda Miner

The Declaration of Peace

A Pledge to Take Action to:

- Bring the Troops Home Now
- By September 21, Establish a Comprehensive Plan to End the US War in Iraq
- Oppose Future US Military Invasions

From September 21-28, just days before Congress adjourns for the fall elections, Declaration signers will take part in nonviolent action to declare peace in Washington, DC and in cities and towns across the U.S.

The US war in Iraq is an endless fire consuming lives, resources, and the fragile possibilities of peace.

Instead of quenching this fire, the US occupation intensifies it. Continued military occupation will not prevent civil war; in fact, it is likely to increase its prospects because US policy favors and supports only one of the several contending factions.

The majority of the people of the United States, Iraq, and the rest of the world oppose the US war and occupation in Iraq. A New York Times/CBS poll published May 10, 2006 reported a 29% approval rating for the war, the lowest yet. A June 26, 2006 Washington Post poll found that 47% of the public now calls for withdrawal. 73% of the troops on the ground voiced a similar sentiment in another poll.

The war has resulted in at least 100,000 Iraqi deaths, the deaths of over 2,500 US soldiers, and has consumed billions of dollars of resources. This will not change until the American people dramatically remove their active or passive support for this war and create the political conditions for an end to the US war and occupation.

The Declaration of Peace campaign will continue after the September actions if no comprehensive plan to end the war is in place. Nationally coordinated nonviolent activities will continue until the United States withdraws from Iraq and supports a comprehensive peace process. More than 180 anti-war, peace, and justice organizations are participating in the Declaration of Peace movement.

{For complete information and action plans, visit the source for these excerpts,
www.declarationofpeace.org}

- For the Outreach Committee by Bill Santelmann

The Outreach Committee leads and encourages the congregation in personal and faithful outreach through missions, social action, working for justice and peace as well as strengthening LUMC's commitment to local and international missions.

ONE in Outreach

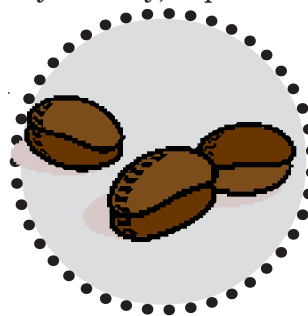
Monthly Call: Resolution 209 Regarding the War on Iraq

The 2006 Annual Conference adopted RS-209 regarding the war on Iraq. It calls United Methodists in the New England Conference to make a call or contact their representatives regarding the orderly withdrawal of our troops. This call-in effort is to be continued once a month until our troops come home and a true peace building begins in Iraq.

Please make your August calls this week - visit www.house.gov/ and www.senate.gov/ to find the contact information for your representatives, then contact them to register your position on the orderly withdrawal of our troops and personnel from Iraq. You can make a phone call, or use mail or email to express your will. This refers to Resolution 209. (Information from UM General Board of Church and Society.)

Equal Exchange Coffee Sales in September

For your convenience in support of third world family farmers, the Outreach Committee is having the sale of Fair Traded Coffee and other items during September. The next sale will be during our Alternative Christmas Market. See the attached order form for items and prices that must be returned to the Outreach mailbox or to Ken Kreutziger by Sunday, September 17.



Social Justice Endowment Awards 2006 Grants

LUMC has received letters of appreciation from our 2006 grant recipients that we want to share with the congregation.

Project Chacocente

A letter from the newly elected President of Project Chacocente, Kristopher Kuehn, thanks LUMC "for all your gifts." They have been working on improving their website as an information and communication tool. Cheryl Avery's recent newsletter is posted on the website www.outofthedump.org. Her summer 2006 newsletter is accessed by clicking on the "staying current" tab at the top of the home page and selecting the "Chacocente News, Summer 2006."

The newsletter has wonderful pictures and lots of good information. Read in Cheryl's progress report on page 2 how in 3½ years they are transitioning to a "community committee" to run their own affairs. Read the heartening news about how this transformation is taking place with the expectation that Cheryl's work as executive director will not be needed in another 1½ years.

This is what empowerment is and means. LUMC has been involved with Social Justice Endowment Grants to Project Chacocente for three years and we celebrate with them and wish them continued progress and success.

Corporate Accountability International

A letter from the associate director of development, Karen Uffelman, thanks us on behalf of the board and staff of CAI. "I wish to express our sincere thanks for the \$500 grant by the Social Justice Endowment Committee made in support of our campaign to protect public water sources and secure the human right to water. We believe that challenging irresponsible corporate control of water is one of the most important endeavors in our lifetime, and we are grateful for the partnership of the Lexington United Methodist Church."

Bloom in the Desert

An email from Rev. Kevin Johnson to their congregation with copy to our committee expresses their gratitude for our grant to Bloom in the Desert. "Thanks to a generous grant (from LUMC), Bloom is going to be purchasing a laptop for use in meetings, travel, presentations and occasionally for worship. We want to have this in place by October 1."

- Ken Kreutziger, Chair
Social Justice Endowment Committee

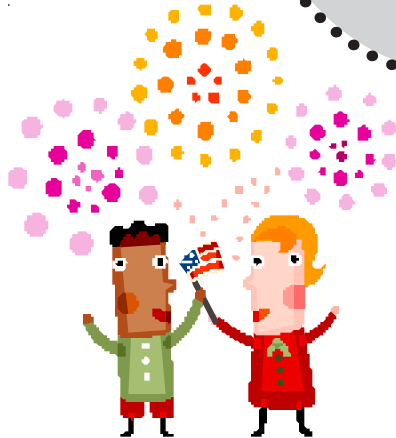


ONE in Witness

Celebration

Thank you, Jesus! And thank you, Andrea Laux, Ben Beckwith and Kathy Parks for agreeing to a Trinitarian-style Chairpersonship for the Witness Committee. With your bold, creative and daring leadership, our church will be guided in a direction that honors the work of God in us and among us. Thank you for being faithful and thank you for leading us.

The **Witness Committee** reaches out to new members, welcomes and invites people into our family of faith through creative and intentional methods.



Each ONE ... Bring ONE

Each Week... Bring ONE

Each Week... Bring ONE

Try the "name dropping" game this week. In casual conversations you have, try dropping the name of our church at least once. If the person you are talking with begins to catch on, then invite him or her to church with you. Who knows?

You may be a winner!

Each ONE ... Bring ONE



Calling ONE Calling All

We are calling for entries in a *motto* contest. Submit your most creative, interesting, provocative, and descriptive mottos of our church. The submission will be listed in October's newsletter and everyone will be given a chance to vote on the motto s/he likes best. The winning motto will be announced in the November newsletter and be used on our publicity and our website. Submit mottos via telephone, note or email to office@lexumc.org.

Now...get out there and get creative!

Movie Night

Let's get together to see the recently released movie "An Inconvenient Truth" on Friday, September 22. Movie time and location TBD. Contact the church office or Bill Santelmann for more information.

An Inconvenient Truth

Humanity is sitting on a time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet's climate system into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced- a catastrophe of our own making. If that sounds like a recipe for serious gloom and doom — think again. From director Davis Guggenheim comes the Sundance Film Festival hit, "An Inconvenient Truth," which offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's commitment to expose the myths and misconceptions that surround global warming and inspire actions to prevent it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on an all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change. In this eye-opening and poignant portrait of Gore and his 'traveling global warming show,' Gore is funny, engaging, open and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our 'planetary emergency' out to ordinary citizens before it's too late.

ONE in Witness

LUMC Summer Fellowship Events Focus on Community

On a certain evening in July in the Asbury room, trains were chugging across America, little ones were climbing ladders and chuting down slides, and Rainer von Saleski and Jim Hogan were engaged in a heated game of strategy and cunning. This was our first **Family Game Night**. About eighteen people joined together to eat pizza and play games. There were so many games that we will need another five or six game nights to get through them all! Look out for the next one and join the party!



The first **LUMC Very Merry Unbirthday Party** was a great success! About thirty people attended and, from little ones to the elder members of our LUMC family, everyone had a grand time! The evening started when the Parks/Hawk family arrived and began decorating the room with festive streamers and noisemakers. Then everyone began arriving with potluck dishes, finding others born in the same month to sit with, and enjoying supper together. The rest of the evening involved the singing of "Happy Unbirthday to you and you and you and you," eating cake and ice cream (of course!), opening presents, and a rousing game of "Pin the tail on the donkey." We also learned a game called "Do you love your neighbor?" In the course of the game, the answer is usually "No" and yet the way that everyone played together was so loving and so like a family that it became abundantly clear that we all love our neighbor, even more than we let on!



Caring

Pastoral Visits and Prayer Lists: If you (or a family member) are in the hospital or at home and would like Hope to visit with you, please call the church office (781-861-9301) and let us know where you or your family would like to be visited. If you have let the office know that you or a family member was hospitalized but has gone home, please let us know that too. Also, if you have someone who you would like to be on our prayer list, give us a call and let us know. The list will be up-dated and included in our weekly bulletin. Thank you.

LUMC Book Club

The LUMC Book Club will read and discuss *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards. The meeting will be on Monday, October 17 at 7:30 pm at the home of Janet Melcher.

From Publishers Weekly:

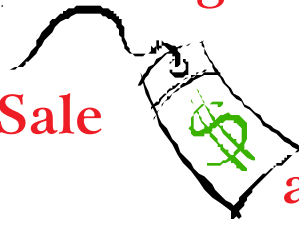
Edwards's debut novel hinges on the birth of fraternal twins, a healthy boy and a girl with Down syndrome. A snowstorm immobilizes Lexington, Ky. in 1964, and when young Norah Henry goes into labor, her husband, orthopedic surgeon Dr. David Henry, must deliver their babies himself, aided only by a nurse. Seeing his daughter's handicap, he instructs the nurse to take her to a home and later tells his wife that their son's twin died at birth. Instead of institutionalizing the baby girl, the nurse absconds with her to Pittsburgh. Dr. Henry's deception becomes the defining moment of the family's lives for the next 25 years. His undetected lie warps his marriage as he grapples with guilt. His wife mourns her lost child and the healthy son not only deals with his parents' icy relationship but with his own yearnings for his sister as well.

Concerns, Celebrations and Addresses

- Congratulations to Bishop Peter Weaver on his marriage on August 12, 2006.
- Welcome to Martin, Gabriela and Laura Parizek who are the new tenants in the parsonage.
- Bob and Linda Rings' new contact information: Village at Cider Hill; 54 Kavanaugh Rd Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064-1476 Tel: 207-937-2672 rrings@maine.rr.com; lrings@maine.rr.com
- Ari Johnston's contact information: Srta. Ariana Johnston c/o Sra. Ana Fernandez Girona 150 5° 1a 08037 Barcelona, Espana (She will spend a junior year abroad in Spain.)
- Brad Johnston's contact information: P.O. Box 380 North Bridgton, ME 04057 (He will be attending Bridgton Academy.)



ONE in Steering and Enabling



LUMC Giant Yard Sale

Saturday October 14
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Once again we come round to that time of year when you get to unload all your stashed-away stuff and raise a little dough for LUMC. We need books and furniture and toys and games and clothing and jewelry and baked goods.

Over the next few weeks you will have the chance to pick your table, (and we also need a bake sale coordinator and help with publicity). Or you can help with set up on Friday night (that's Friday the 13th at 6:00 pm - avoid black cats).

Sign up sheets will be available on Homecoming Sunday, September 10.

Save the date and start collecting your wares! Give jewelry to Smoki Fraser to repair/clean for the yard sale. Contact Keith Herndon anytime day (617-563-7886) or night (781-863-9998) or via email (keith.herndon@fmr.com) to reserve your volunteering opportunity!

Our annual yard sale is always a fun time for all!
- Keith Herndon

Featured Artist at Giant Yard Sale

A member of our church family, Deborah Edmiston who is a regionally and nationally recognized award-winning artist will "empty her art bins" and offer 25 unframed, original watercolor paintings for sale at LUMC's Giant Yard Sale on October 14. Her paintings range from 4 x 6 inch studies to 22 x 33 inch paintings on watercolor paper. Deborah comments that these are paintings done over the last 8 years as studies for larger paintings or as subjects of those things she loves to paint—street scenes, landscapes, small subject paintings. The paintings range in price from \$20-\$45 and all proceeds go to LUMC.



The *Steering/Enabling Committee* addresses the administrative and operational concerns of the church including Staff-Parish Relations, Finance, Corporation and Lay Leadership Committees.

Finance Corner

Budget numbers through July 2006:

Total 2006 receipts to LUMC through 7/31/06:
\$139,342

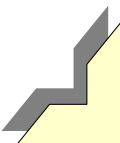
Total 2006 expenditures by LUMC through 7/31/06:
\$151,447

Total 2006 expenditures budgeted through 7/31/06:
\$148,761

Summer is always a bit of a famine time for LUMC as the pledge giving generally slows down but the expenses continue at the same rate. So you can see that our income has not kept pace with our expenses but we generally make that up in the fall as we return from vacation. However this year the summer lull is more severe. So please ensure that your pledges are current and consider going above and beyond if you are able.

Thanks again for everything.

-Keith Herndon
Chair, Finance Committee



Burglary Update

Early on the morning, July 16, 2006, the church was broken into resulting in damaged and stolen property from St. John's Korean UMC, Lexington UMC and the Methodist Weekday School offices. The Lexington Police spent the morning fingerprinting and investigating even while we gathered for worship and prayed for our communities and those persons who needed something from our church. Please continue to pray for each other and for our neighbors in need, especially those who are pushed by life circumstances to desperate measures. A full investigative report is pending.

Help Wanted

Desperately seeking motivated leaders for for Nurture, Outreach, Staff Parish Relations and Lay Leadership Committees.

Successful candidates will be energetic, creative, loving, and willing to take BIG risks by stepping out in faith.

More desperately seeking creative, motivated and passionate people committed to making this year's Stewardship Team the best ever.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

For a challenging AND eternally rewarding job, apply now!

Newsletter Deadline Change

To make it easier for everyone to remember the newsletter deadline, it will now be the 15th of the month (or as close to that as possible)!

October Newsletter Articles due
Friday, September 15, 2006

News About Sunitha

The following are excerpts from two letters from Wanda Hodge, Director of World's Children Inc. which manages the monies that we collect for Sunitha, the child we sponsor in India.

Dear Sponsors:

July 28, 2006

I received our monthly letter from Mrs. Dayanand at Methodist Girls' Home, Moinabad, India. During the children's summer break she attended their annual conference. School has now started and they have new students coming to the Hostel. She was able to apply for financial assist in repairing the toilets and renovation has begun.

The temperatures are very high now in India and the staff and children do what they can to stay out of the heat. She said that they have continuous power outages and has requested help in purchasing a generator. If you would like to contribute toward the generator we will send it overseas.

I will end this note with Mrs. Dayanand's last paragraph. "Really it is a privilege to have loving people like you and to have donors like you. We are praying for the sponsors and donors of WCI [World's Children Inc.]. May the good Lord give you all the support, strength and help to take care of the children worldwide. Our prayer support is with you."

Dear Sponsors:

July/August 2006

... Some of our superintendents overseas have written to tell us that the heat in their area can be unbearable. Many of the children are suffering from summer colds and fevers as illnesses increase with the excessive heat. We are praying for rain and cooler temperatures in India and Africa.

National Independence Day is August 15 for the children of India ... [and] they celebrate their Independence Day much like we do in the United States.

Our orphanages plan patriotic programs and invite parents and local dignitaries to attend and participate. Some will have a parade around the courtyard, and the children will march to music carrying their nations' flags and streamers.

We are grateful to you for your prayers and faithful support of the poorest children around the world. You are helping to better our world, one child at a time.




Looking ahead ...

World Communion Sunday - October 1

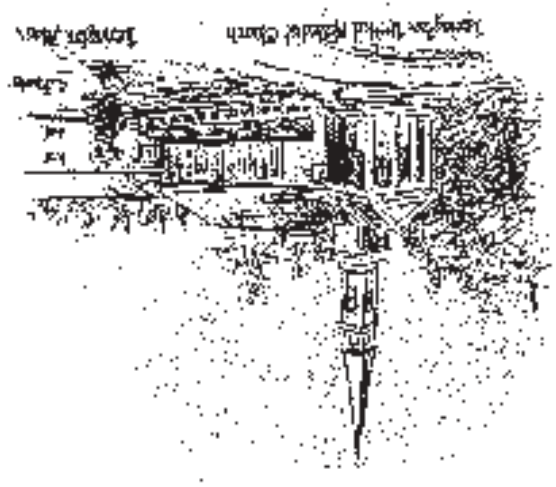
We will be worshipping jointly with St. John's UMC at 11:30 am. Come celebrate our wider church family and enjoy an extra hour of sleep!



September 2006 - Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b style="color: red;">13th Sunday after Pentecost <b style="color: red;">Service of Word and Table 9:15 am Worship begins with Music Nursery Care 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall	4 Labor Day (office closed)	5	6 Noon Lexington Interfaith Clergy Assoc (LICA)	7 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 <b style="color: red;">14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Worship begins with Music Nursery Care 10:30 am Fellowship on the Lawn 5:30 pm Methodist Youth Fellowship <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;"> HOMECOMING! </div>	<b style="color: red;">Programs @ LUMC Begin This Week!					
	11 7:00 pm Steering/ Enabling Committee 8:00 pm Administrative Council	12 7:00 pm Corporation Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> LICA Retreat </div> 10:00 am Bibles and Bagels 3:00 pm Afternoon Tea 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer 7:30 pm Bible Study		14 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	15 <div style="text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold;"> October Newsletter Deadline </div>
17 <b style="color: red;">15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Worship begins with Music Nursery Care 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am 11 th Hour for Everyone <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; color: green;"> Coffee Order Forms Due </div>	18 6:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting	19	20 10:00 am Bibles and Bagels 3:00 pm Afternoon Tea 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer 7:30 pm Bible Study	21 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	22 12:30 Newsletter Collation Movie Night Time TBD 	23 9:00 – 11:00 Lexington Food Pantry
24 <b style="color: red;">16th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Worship begins with Music Nursery Care 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall 11:00 am 11 th Hour for Everyone 5:30 pm Methodist Youth Fellowship <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Roxbury Food Cupboard Collection </div>	25 7:00 – 9:00 pm NOW Nurture and Witness Committee Meeting	26	27 10:00 am Bibles and Bagels 3:00 pm Afternoon Tea 7:00 pm Taizé Prayer 7:30 pm Bible Study	28 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	29	30 

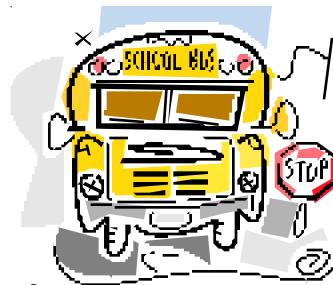
Mark Your Calendars for the Giant Yard Sale on October 14 from 9:00 - 2:00!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

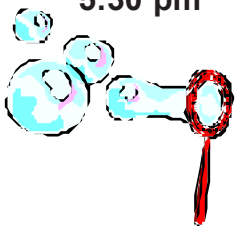
Our Sunday Program



September 2006 Newsletter

- 8:30 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Worship begins with Music
Nursery Care
- 10:30 am Fellowship in Martin Hall
- 11:00 am 11th Hour for Everyone
- 5:30 pm Methodist Youth Fellowship

Rev. Hope N. Luckie, Minister
 Jeanne Lucas, Music Director
 Jane Hogan, Christian Education Director
 Ian Woods, Organist
 David Babbidge, Sexton
 Allyson Printz, Office Administrator



**HOMECOMING
 CELEBRATION ON THE LAWN
 SEPTEMBER 10 ❖ 9:15 AM**

Telephone 781-861-9301
 Fax 781-861-7228
 Website www.lexumc.org
 Office Email office@lexumc.org