

THE TOWER

MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 06

February 2016

OPEN HEARTS

Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

MOTHER CHURCH OF
AMERICAN METHODISM



2200 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore MD 21218-5805

Worship 11:00 AM

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
9 AM — 2 PM

Phone
410-889-1512

Email
LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com

Website
LovelyLane.net

PASTOR

Rev. Travis Knoll

LAY LEADER

John Strawbridge

ORGANIST

Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTORS EMERITI

Rev. Nancy Nedwell

Dr. Errol Smith

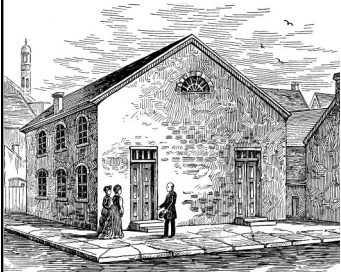
Dr. Emora Brannan

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Lena Leone

SEXTON

Ivan Reyes



From the Pastor:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who empowers, informs, and directs us all. As I write this, it is January, and winter has finally found us here based on temperature and a call for precipitation of a white and fluffy kind. My son is, along with all school aged children raised in praying homes, fervently praying for enough snow to get a two hour delay of the school start. Alas, the current forecast calls for snow for the weekend, not leading into a school day.

The robins were just recently observed migrating south. Perhaps this indicates a late winter, or maybe just a short stay in the sunny south for them... What should we do in this cold and dark time? Spring is coming, and the gardeners among us will then find themselves busy working in their yards. Children's sports will resume in earnest, and the outside will beckon to all, even if only to mow the grass. Until then, what shall we do with ourselves?

Winter is a great time to do a bit more reading, pondering, and planning. This is a great time to pull a bit of time away from the TV, yard, and garden to take a look around at our lives and make sure we aren't neglecting something important. Holidays reminding us to spend some time

with family, evenings with nothing on the telly - How can we have 137 channels with nothing worth watching? These evenings allow us a rare luxury - the chance to reflect a bit. To look about us and see things with new and perhaps somewhat less rushed eyes.

For me, such times are times of renewal, times of integrating of dangling portions of my life. When I get too busy, I neglect to smell the roses, to enjoy the journey, and I begin to burn out. Winter can be a reminder that there are seasons for planting and harvests, and there are seasons for reflection and planning. I function better if I have some time now and again to breathe and think. To perhaps write a letter to my brothers reminding them how proud I am to be their brother; to read a book and talk about it with a friend; to look at the cars and other stuff of life and consider what should be done with and to them... To perhaps sort the garage/attic/basement out a bit; to sit with friends of an evening and just share life together.

May this winter be a time of integration, of healing, of energy gathering and life uncluttering. May this be a season of putting things together and sharing more generously. May this winter prepare each of us for the spring that waits to be.


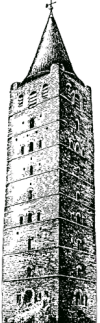
Travis

NURSERY GETTING STARTED!

We at Lovely Lane have been especially blessed to enjoy the sounds of children in our midst of late, which is wonderful but can be stressful for the families of those sounds of life.

We would like to offer an "at-need" nursery service during the worship service for parents to attend worship without distraction as they feel the need for it. The plan is for a list to be provided to the ushers with a pair of unrelated adults available each week to staff a nursery as needed. To make that possible, we need a few more adults to join our current list of: Kamila Alexander, Sarah Knoll, Nancy Brannan, Sefi Abedoh, Carrie Harnick, Dean Knoll, & Caleb Knoll. If we could have a list of 12 adults and 4 substitutes, then people would be "on call" only every 6 weeks. Please call the office if you are willing to help in this way. Grace and peace, -Travis

OPEN DOORS

<p>POINSETTIA REVISION</p> <p><u>In Memory of</u> Danny Curtis <i>By Carol K. Curtis</i></p> <p>Mrs. Janice C. Boore <i>By Helen & Melvin Boore</i></p> <p>Dr. Burwell Powell <i>By Helen & Melvin Boore</i></p> <p>Ed & Ruth Schell <i>By Betty J. Ammons</i></p> 	<p>SUNDAY LEADERSHIP</p> <p><u>Tour Guides</u> February 7 Craig Smith February 14 Sefi Abedoh February 21 John Strawbridge February 28 Mike Rouse</p> <p><u>Greeters</u> February 7 Marisa, Johnny & Daria Olszewski February 14 Susan Allenback & John Strawbridge February 21 Elizabeth, Sean, Liam & Owen Hines February 28 Aimee & Ken Delaney</p>	<p>LECTIONARY READINGS</p> <p>February 7 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> <i>Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany</i> Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 (UMH 819) 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:2-36 (37-43a)</p> <p>February 10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785) 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</p> <p>February 14 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810) Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13</p> <p>February 21 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 (UMH 758) Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35</p> <p>February 28 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 (UMH 788) 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9</p>
<p>RESTORATION GIFTS</p> <p><u>In Memory of</u> J. Carroll Tulloss Estelle K. Hutchins Tulloss, his wife Helen Grafflin Tulloss, his mother William Bryce Tulloss, his brother Helen Clare Tulloss Pratt, his sister <i>By Donald & Estelle K. Tulloss Wagner</i></p> <p>Howard Simpson Hall <i>By Donald & Carolyn Hanson & by Anna Dahl</i></p> <p><u>In Honor of</u> Howard Simpson Hall's Family <i>By Anna Dahl</i></p> <p>Robert Weimer Linda Webb</p>	<p>TOWER LIGHTING</p> <p>Our Tower is lit each night to be a beacon of hope in the city. The lighting of the tower can be dedicated in honor of or in memory of a loved one for a week for a contribution of \$30. If interested, see the sign up list on the bulletin board in the hall outside the church office for availability or contact Lena directly. Contributions toward its costs help us function here at Lovely Lane.</p> 	

CONGRATULATIONS!

Courtney Hughes and Charles Conner recently were engaged to be married! Congratulate them when you see them, what a joy it is to see renewal of life and love in this way in our midst. May your lives together be richer and fuller than they ever could have been apart. *-Travis*

CHURCH COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECT

ITEMS NEEDED FOR MANNA HOUSE

Our church council has asked that we might collect large canisters of coffee, sugar and vegetables for Manna House this season. A box for this purpose will be placed in the back of the Sanctuary through the month of February. Thank you for helping the needy in our community.

CONGREGATION UPDATE

Joe Weiblen received his Ph.D. degree in December from the College of Engineering at UMBC in Electrical Engineering. His dissertation topic: "Light Propagation into, out of and through Mid-Infrared Optical Fibers".

SPRC OFFICER AMENDMENT

Jack O'Laughlin's name was unintentionally left out of the SPRC List of Officers. He is the current SPRC Chair for 2016. Please add him to your list.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Because we had not purchased a home when the directory was printed, it didn't have our current address in it. Please update the Knoll's address to: 1703 Singer Road, Joppa MD 21085. Thank you. *-Travis*

OPEN MINDS

From the Lay Leader...

*"For some ridiculous reason
(to which, however, I've no desire to be disloyal),
Some person in authority, I don't know who
(very likely the Astronomer Royal),
Has decided that although for such a beastly month
as February; twenty-eight days as a rule are plenty,
One year in every four,
his days shall be reckoned as nine and twenty."*

-William S. Gilbert

As occasional events go, Leap Year is nothing special. It doesn't have the pageantry of the Olympic Games. It doesn't have the attention of a Presidential Election. It does get its own special day added to the calendar – this month we will have 29 days instead of the common 28. But then we don't do anything special with the day. In fact, this month it falls on a Monday – a work day.

But if Leap Day is a minor thing in our lives, it represents a very big thing in the life of our world. So big that its effects are measured in thousands of years.

All of this is the result of a small flaw; that a year is about 365¼ days long. Because of these few extra hours, we have to add a day almost every four years. But even that is not exactly right, and our calendar still goes askew every 3236 years.

A little flaw can make a big difference.

In Persian rugs, the pattern can be so complex that it takes years to complete by hand. So it may be surprising to learn that the makers of these meticulous designs actually incorporate one deliberate imperfect stitch into their work. This is known as a "Persian Flaw". It is meant honor God – Allah – in the sense that only He is perfect, and that any work of humankind must be flawed.

How then to explain the Leap Year. If God is perfect, shouldn't the length of the day and the length of the year line up perfectly – so that we don't need to make a correction? Does this mean that God isn't perfect? Does this suggest that the universe wasn't made by God? Does this call everything we believe into question?

A little flaw can make a big difference.

Far from calling God and His work into doubt, the little imperfect stitch that we call Leap Day may be a God-sized Persian Flaw. In the immensely complex design that is the cosmos, it is the artist's hand at work. Proof of a design far more intentional and meaningful than boring regularity.

God's design for the world is filled with such beautiful imperfections. Without them, the universe would hardly be worth creating.

We admit in our beliefs and our prayers that we humans are not perfect. We sin. We need redemption. Yet we are God's creations – made in his image. So why are we flawed?

Maybe we are flawed because God loved us enough to give us flaws. Our imperfections mean we make mistakes, but it also means we are capable of surprise, of inspiration and innovation. Perfect things are stamped out of machines on assembly lines. We are hand-crafted. One-of-a-kind.

In God's image, then, we must accept that we are flawed. But more challenging; we must accept that the flaws in others are the hallmarks of Divine Creation. God's proof that we are neither accidental nor routine.

And as the mark of God, we know that He alone knows our flaw, and He alone has the power to correct it.

Even with an added day, our calendar year will still be 27 seconds longer than the actual year. Not much – but time enough to consider the work of God's hand in the world, in ourselves, and in each other.

It's a little thing, but it can make a big difference.

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER

SHELL LECTURE POSTPONED

Due to lingering effects of the blizzard, the Schell Lecture series event with guest speaker Wayne Schaumburg that was scheduled for Saturday, February 6th has been postponed. This fascinating presentation by a popular speaker and tour guide will focus on the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904 - an event which directly led to the creation of the Lovely Lane Museum. The rescheduled date will be publicized in an upcoming Tower Monthly, and on the Museum website.



BW CONFERENCE GRANT FOR THE BISHOPS' LOT

The Bishops' Lot in Mt. Olivet Cemetery is known as "The Resting Place of Methodist Bishops". Within this "God's Acre" lies our denomination's founding Bishop, Francis Asbury. Nearby are Bishops Enoch George, John Emory and Beverly Waugh.

In 1854, Baltimore City Station placed a monument on the Bishop's Lot to honor these four greats. Standing eighteen feet in height and made of Italian marble, with the words "Soli Deo Gloria" at the top, it has stood for 162 years in pride. But time and traffic have humbled the once grand marker. Marble is a relatively soft stone. Wind, rain, and pollutants from the busy road have worn the inscriptions to near illegibility. Cracks have formed, and the monument might well begin to crumble in another decade.

But this year we are commemorating the 200th anniversary of Bishop Asbury's passing. So what better time to give some much needed attention to the Bishops' Monument & the Bishops' Lot? A few weeks ago, Rev. Brannan, Rev. Knoll, and Rob Shindle made a joint presentation of Lovely Lane and the UM Historical Society to the Trustees of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. They boldly proposed replacing the Bishops' Monument with a duplicate made of longer-lasting granite. Further, they proposed the addition of signage which would direct visitors to this historic place, and give information and biographies of some of the people interred there. The plan also calls for replacing broken Bishops' Lot sign with a permanent granite one. The Conference Trustees agreed that this was, indeed, an appropriate time to recognize the importance of our founding bishops and the Bishops' lot. They approved a significant grant of funds to accomplish the proposal's goals.

Work has already begun on this major effort. The goal is to have as much completed as possible by April 3rd. On that day, we will have a special Service of Remembering at Lovely Lane in the morning. In the afternoon, we will make a pilgrimage to the Bishops' Lot for a service of Rededication. Every United Methodist in Baltimore-Washington (and beyond) will be invited. Look for more information about these activities in next month's Tower Monthly. And please plan to be present for both of these once-in-a-century events.

Our Easter Altar

We invite members and friends of Lovely Lane to help decorate the altar with traditional Easter plants in honor of our risen Savior. Please submit your listing using this form or by calling the church office (410-889-1512). The cost of a plant is \$8.⁰⁰.



To meet printing deadlines for bulletin and newsletter listings, please get this information to the church office by **Monday, March 6th**.

Please indicate if you would like to be listed as the donor:

No, do not list Yes, please list as: "by _____"



In honor/ memory of: _____

In honor/ memory of: _____

In honor/ memory of: _____

In honor/ memory of: _____

I am giving _____ plants at \$8.⁰⁰ per plant, for a total of \$_____.

Additionally, I would like to contribute \$_____ toward additional plants.

Signature: _____ Phone: _____ Total Enclosed: \$_____

OUR MISSION: To celebrate the vision of God’s Good News in Jesus Christ in liturgy, learning, and life, through the revitalization of our congregation, the restoration of our building, and the strengthening of our traditions, while recognizing our unique presence and mission in Baltimore City.



**LOVELY LANE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
2200 ST. PAUL STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21218-5805

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Organization
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!

CALENDAR

Every Sunday

Worship, 11 AM
Fellowship Hour/Guided Tour, **NOON**

Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday

BLS Basketball, Gym, 3:15 PM

Every Monday

BLS Kitchen Club, 3:30 PM

Every Monday & Friday

South Baltimore Warriors
Basketball, Gym, 6 PM

Every Tuesday

Play Baltimore Basketball, Gym, 6 PM

Every Wednesday

Baltimore Folk Music Society Dances,
LL Hall, 8 PM

Every Wednesday & Thursday

Mother Seton Academy
Basketball, Gym, 5 PM

Every Saturday

Seidel Martial Arts, 8 AM

Wednesday, February 3

Morgan State Architecture Drawing Class & Tour
Sanctuary, 9 AM

Wednesday, February 10

Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary, 7 PM

Sunday, February 14

Asbury UMC Tour, LL Hall, NOON

Monday, February 15

Church Office Closed for President’s Day

Wednesday, February 17

BLS Black History Celebration
LL Hall, 8:30 AM

SPRC Meeting, Pastor’s Study, 7 PM

Friday, February 19

BLS Middle School Snowball Dance
LL Hall, 2 PM

Tuesday, February 23

BLS Parent Association Spaghetti Dinner
LL Hall, 5 PM

Saturday, February 27

Aldersgate York UMC Tour, LL Hall, 10 AM

