

THE TOWER

MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 08

APRIL 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

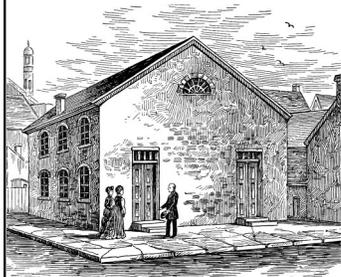
LAY LEADER
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Lena Leone

SEXTON
Ivan Reyes



To the Saints at Lovely Lane-

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost who empowers, instructs, and comforts us all. This letter will arrive after we have experienced the majesty, power, and joy of Easter, but hopefully before the events of April really get going.

April is a powerful month for us and for our work within the kingdom. We begin by looking back to remember the man who laid the foundational cornerstone of the original Lovely Lane meeting house. Francis Asbury is the first name on our windows of servants list of names. This is not accidental. The Father of American Methodism is deeply connected to our story, and our mission to share it.

Memories are powerful. Memories guide, instruct, empower, and motivate. On April 3, we remember Francis Asbury. If you have the chance, invite your family, friends, and neighbors to these celebrations - for some, the website GoFundMe/Asbury200 is an appropriate vehicle for that invitation. For others, a phone call or face to face invitation is better. Invite if you can. It isn't every day that we pull all the stops and use parachutes, block rockers, and 5 piece brass bands in our worship. It isn't every day that we hear from the General Secretary of the Church's General Council on Archives and History or host the president of the National Council of Churches. This promises to be a wonderful day. Come to be a part of it if you can.

In Exodus 15, a celebration of what God has done is the basis for the praise and faith that follows. "I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously; the horse

and its rider the Lord has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation; this is my God whom I will praise." God's people remember, and because they remember, they praise and serve.

This April, we do what God's people have always done - we move from memory to praise and action. At the end of the month we host the Korean Methodist Church American Conference's Annual Conference from April 26-28. 3-400 KME pastors and laity from all across America will come to Lovely Lane to greet, grieve, ordain, and do the work of holy conferencing here at the Mother Church. We will be asking for your help once again.

In between these events, we do our own ministry in our neighborhood and city. On April 10 we will receive a special presentation on Ethiopia from Maria Drumm, and on the 17th we will welcome the Executive Director of Manna House to our worship. Mr. Saleem Gauhar will help us remain connected to this vital local ministry with whom we have a long term ongoing commitment to service.

A busy April, within which it is easy to get lost in the details. Yet the movement remains simple and universal. We remember who we are, and then we work that out in our lives today and into the future. May God continue to use us to do his work for the Kingdom, and remind us who, and whose, we are.

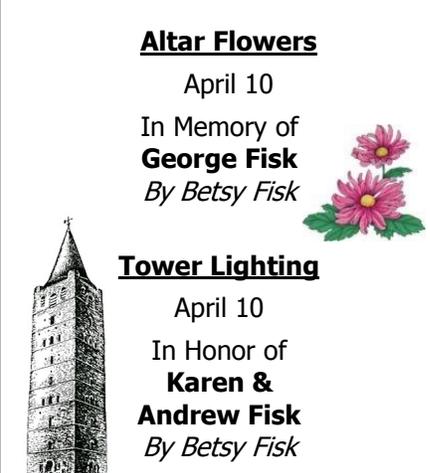
Grace and peace,

Travis

Special thanks to Dolores Shaw who has donated the Paschal Candle for 2016 in memory of Wilton and Bobby Shaw. May it burn brightly in their memory. - *Travis*



OPEN DOORS

RESTORATION GIFTS	SUNDAY LEADERSHIP	LECTIONARY READINGS
<p><u>In Memory of</u> Danny Curtis <i>By Carol Curtis</i></p> <p><u>In Honor of</u> John Hutchinson <i>By Carol Curtis</i></p> <p><u>Given by</u> Linda Webb Eleanor Packard Daniel Motz Greater Heights UMC Charles Kilmon</p>	<p><u>Tour Guides</u> April 3 Lee Enos April 10 Sarah Scribner April 17 Cathy Dryden April 24 Craig Smith</p> <p><u>Greeters</u> April 3 Jackie Noller & Betsey Fisk April 10 Nancy & Emora Brannan April 17 Carol Curtis & John Hutchinson April 24 Abedoh/Enos Family</p>	<p>April 3 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150 (UMH 862) Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31</p> <p>April 10 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) Psalm 30 (UMH 762) Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19</p> <p>April 17 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137) Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30</p> <p>April 24 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 (UMH 861) Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35</p>
<p>ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING OFFICIALLY?</p> <p>This Pentecost (May 15) we will have a number of people officially joining Lovely Lane UMC. If anyone else is interested in thinking about this, please contact Pastor Travis to discuss it. It certainly doesn't need to be a group doing it together, but sometimes it is easier to do something if you don't have to do it alone...</p>	<p><u>Altar Flowers</u> April 10 In Memory of George Fisk <i>By Betsy Fisk</i></p>  <p><u>Tower Lighting</u> April 10 In Honor of Karen & Andrew Fisk <i>By Betsy Fisk</i></p>	

HELPERS NEEDED!

COORDINATORS NEEDED!

Helpers are being recruited for both the April 3 events - guides at both the church before and after our morning worship and at Mt. Olivet before and after the 3 pm service remembering Francis Asbury are needed, as well as a set up and take down crew at Mt. Olivet. Please contact the office or Pastor Travis if you can help with these. Also, we are going to need hosts and guides for the days of April 26-28 at Lovely Lane (all day) to assist our guests as we host the KME America's Annual Conference. Gift shop hosts, guides strategically placed throughout the building, support help (Ivan will need assistance), and tour guides will be needed to help us be effective hosts to this event. If you can help with any of these, please contact the office or Pastor Travis. Sign-up sheets will be available in the bulletins of the Sundays leading up to this event, as well.

Some of you will have noticed that we are not wildly organized in some areas of our church life. Tour guide, Wedding, Altar Guild, Nursery, Mt. Olivet coordinators are needed to help keep these activities functioning smoothly. Please contact the office or Pastor Travis if you have a passion for order, and/or a willingness to serve and some capacity in one or more of these areas.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA UPDATE

Two years ago, the United Methodist Church made a bold commitment to ending deaths by malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. Our Baltimore-Washington Conference has met its pledge goal of \$2.1 M and is in the process of receiving those pledges. Here at Lovely Lane, we pledged \$1,170 and have contributed \$850 towards that pledge. If you have contributed towards this effort, we thank you! Please keep working toward our pledge, or consider adding your support - knowing that every \$10 saves one life. Donations may be made through the church office or in the offering plate. Please be sure your contribution is noted as "Imagine No Malaria" in the memo line or on the envelope.





The Easter Flowers are given by families and friends



In Loving Memory of

- Harold A. Ammons
by Betty J. Ammons
- Our Parents
by Dan and Lenora Baier
- Deborah Bailey
by Dan and Sasha Bailey
- Marilyn Bailey
by Dan and Sasha Bailey
- Mrs. Janice C. Boore
by Helen and Melvin Boore
- Our Parents
by Emora and Nancy Brannan
- Edna Holmes Brown
by Etzie Scott Heyl
- William J. Burgan
by Dennis M. Nonemaker
- Our Parents
by Louis and Laura Coleman
- Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Curiel
by Dolores Shaw
- Adele Daly
by Henry and Linda Chen
- Mr. & Mrs. C. Sherman Denny, Jr.
by Susan Denny Conner & Family
- Mr. & Mrs. C. Sherman Denny, Sr.
by Susan Denny Conner & Family
- Dorothy Douthat
by Joe and Mary Schrufer
- Winifred and Walton Douthat
by Joe and Mary Schrufer
- Betty Louise Dowdell
by Louis and Laura Coleman
- Hattie Farmer Dryden
by Cathy Dryden
- Thomas Elliott Dryden
by Cathy Dryden
- Ethel Holmes Dyer
by Etzie Scott Heyl
- Mrs. Henry Eliason
by Carl Kircher
- Mr. Henry Eliason
by Carl Kircher
- Henry C. Eliason
by Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Kircher
- Katherine R. Eliason
by Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Kircher
- Emma
by Julia Henslee
- Aundreta Conner Farris
by Courtney Hughes
- My husband George Fisk
by Betsy Fisk
- Louise Gamble
by Laura Gamble, Rob, Eve and Quinn Gillen
- Beth Glasgow
by Henry and Linda Chen
- Beth Glasgow
by Dorothy Krug
- Glory
by Julia Henslee
- Mike Griffin
by Marian Munn Griffin
- Mary Hannaford
by Linda Webb
- Josh and Estelle Hughes
by Courtney Hughes
- Henry Daniel James
by Dave and Dan James
- Frances Hollifield James
by Dave and Dan James
- Theodore & Clarissa Mae Kammar
by Barbara and Roger Tinius
- Eleanor H Kilmon
by William Kilmon
- Linton E. Kilmon, Jr.
by William Kilmon
- Linton E. Kilmon, Sr.
by William Kilmon
- Nadine M. Kilmon
by William Kilmon
- Mary R. Eliason Kircher
by Carl Kircher
- Mary R. Eliason Kircher
by Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Kircher
- Charles Lynch
by Courtney Hughes



In Loving Memory of



Zerno Martin
by Linda Webb

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Rigby McDorman
by Susan Denny Conner & Family

Albert Rogers Munn, Jr
by Marian Munn Griffin

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Rogers Munn, Sr.
by Eleanor Munn Packard

Dalton Munn
by Marian Munn Griffin

Frances and Albert Munn
by Marian Munn Griffin

Loved Ones
by Jackie Noller

Albert E. and Mabel B. Nonemaker
by Dennis M. Nonemaker

Margaret E Nonemaker
by Dennis M. Nonemaker

Loved Ones
by Dennis M. Nonemaker

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Earl Packard, I
by Eleanor Munn Packard

John Neal Packard
by Eleanor Munn Packard

George R. and Nadine C. Page
*by children, David R Page
and Marcia Page Cooley*

Dr. Burwell F. Powell
by Helen and Melvin Boore

Edwin and Ruth Schell
by Betty J. Ammons

Bob Shaw
by Henry and Linda Chen

Wilton and Bobby Shaw
by Dolores Shaw

Alice Shugars
by Dorothy Krug

John and Hannelore Tinius
by Roger and Barbara Tinius

Martha Holmes Tracey
by Etzie Scott Heyl

Daisy Munn Trobaugh
by Marian Munn Griffin

Dick Wilson
by Henry and Linda Chen

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Yongue
by Eleanor Munn Packard



In Honor of



Nancy and Emora Brannan
by Henry and Linda Chen

Our Children
by Emora and Nancy Brannan

Our Grandchildren
by Emora and Nancy Brannan

My Fabulous Family
by Betsy Fisk

Morris Gamble
*by Laura Gamble and Rob Gillen
& Eve and Quinn Gillen*

Patricia Sorrels Greer
by Cathy Dryden

Sally Knapp
by Dorothy Krug

The Knoll Family
by Linda Webb

Nancy Nedwell
by Henry and Linda Chen

Eleanor Packard
by Dorothy Krug

Pickles
by Julia Henslee

Dee Shaw
by Henry and Linda Chen

Dolores Shaw
by Dorothy Krug

*The Paschal or Easter Candle is given in loving memory
of Wilton and Robert Shaw by Dolores Shaw.*



*The single candlestick holding the candle is given in loving memory
of the Rev. Dr. & Mrs. J. Franklin Haas.*

This letter was written to the UM Connection (our conference newspaper) in response to an article about the Board of Ordained Ministry recommending a married woman for ordination. She is married to another woman. The UMC has been in conversation about this for many years, without reaching consensus. At this time, our discipline prohibits ordination of “practicing” homosexual persons. This question will be discussed again this General Conference, but if history is our guide, we should not expect a final resolution this year.

Failing a resolution at General Conference, this annual conference will discuss the question of this ordination with the issue unresolved. My concern isn’t about the result of the conversation, but about the nature of the conversation itself. Because I found myself dreading the discussion to occur at our Executive (clergy) Session, I prayed about what I could do to change the nature of our conversation. In prayer, I decided I had to try. This letter is the result.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When counseling couples in conflict, I have asked “what makes a difference in success for marriages and other partnerships?” I have found a bit of wisdom that makes both sense and a difference; **it matters how we fight**. If partners in disagreement are able to honor each other in the midst of their disagreement, the partnership has a much greater chance of surviving... and even thriving. When disagreements enter the “winning is everything” mode, partnerships are at much greater risk of dissolution. This is true in our churches as well. If we can disagree while giving honor to our opponents, we have a much greater chance of remaining together. If things devolve into personal attacks and dishonoring, we are on shaky ground.

The church’s current conversation about LGBTQ ordination is, I believe, at great risk of this devolution. I would like to discuss this division among us in a mutually honoring way. I attempt this in the prayer that we might come to greater understanding and appreciation for each other in the midst of this disagreement.

Those who speak in favor of LGBTQ ordination understand this aspect of our humanity to be God given and immutable. Thus, for them, to deny full connection to this community is a simple justice issue like racism or sexism. They feel morally compelled to press forward on this front to value the image of God that resides in each of us. To do otherwise, for them, denies the clear plan and diversity of humanity that God has created, and thus implicitly denies God through rejecting a part of God’s human creation.

Those who speak against LGBTQ ordination believe that the Bible offers a clear and unambiguous guide in this area. Thus, moving from the Bible’s position is rejecting God’s ordinance. Obedience to God is not a tangential issue for Christians, as the Great Commission calls us to “teach them to obey my commands.”

Thus, one side (in favor) can sometimes see their opponents as evil, or at least morally deficient, while the other side (opposed) can see their opponents as disobedient to God’s word in favor of (to them) human teachings. My primary goal in writing this is to suggest that we avoid both these stereotypes of those with whom we disagree. With a little work and honest seeking, we can discover the Biblical fidelity of the one side and the moral courage of the other.

So how can we honor each other in the midst of disagreement? We must seek to understand and affirm the values upheld by those with whom we disagree. We are each of us seeking to be faithful. To remain in partnership with those with whom we disagree, we must respect that they are also seeking to be faithful. That is what it means to love your neighbor as yourself - to appreciate not only their words, but also their integrity and intention in saying them.

Will that end the division? It will not. Good people differ. It will, however, allow us to differ with respect, understanding, and compassion. It might also allow us to remain partners in pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Surely that is God’s intention, don’t you think?

Yours in Christ - Travis Knoll

OPEN MINDS

From the Lay Leader...

I'm watching my neighbors pack. After twenty years living in the house a little way down the alley from mine – they have bought a place in Tennessee and are moving. It's a little ironic to me because, you see, I only just met them.

It's a familiar story; in the wake of the blizzard neighbors are out shoveling snow. We take a break to lean on the shovel and complain to each other about how we've had enough for one winter. This is how I met Jack and his wife Hyun. Of course we've seen each other for years. We've waved hello as we've gotten into or out of our cars. But this time we got to know each other a little. We found that we had a lot in common.

This is often the way it is with neighbors – especially in a city. I am surrounded by neighbors I don't really know. There's the "guy with the red truck that won't start on cold mornings." There's the "woman who carries a briefcase and wears sneakers." There's the "dad with tattoos who waits with his kids at the bus stop." And a dozen other folks I know by their habits but not their names.

As Christians we know we ought to recognize strangers as our brothers and our sisters. As United Methodists, we know we should be making connections and sharing the Good News. But as neighbors, we often want to have a buffer of comfortable unfamiliarity between ourselves and those with whom we share fences.

As I watch Jack and Hyun pack, my thought is not to condemn our tendency to ignore those around us, but something more hopeful. I think that now I will know some folks in Tennessee. Hyun is from Korea, and I am reminded of our Lovely Lane connections there. We've met many Koreans who have come to Goucher's Folly – which is a mother church to them as well as to us. Many of us just learned how to sing "Jesus Loves Me" in Korean so that we could send our greetings overseas.

We are also fighting malaria and building schools in Africa. We are giving money to UMCOR because we feel the pain of those around the world whose lives are devastated by hurricanes and earthquakes.

It is true that sometimes our neighbors can seem worlds away. But sometimes people a world away can seem like our neighbors.

This is one of the unique benefits of being a modern Christian. We have the whole world as our neighborhood, and are better able than our forebears to follow Christ's Great Commission. After His resurrection, He commanded the Disciples to "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15b)

In Robert Frost's Poem "Mending Wall", we read the famous line "Good fences make good neighbors." But it is not the separation that makes the neighbors good, but the fact that every year the neighbors must come together and labor alongside each other on mending. If not for this work, they would probably never meet.

Jesus does not recognize proximity in the definition of a neighbor, but action. When, in Luke 10:29, a lawyer asks, "...who is my neighbor?" Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan. "Which of these," Jesus asks, "was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The lawyer replies, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus says to him, "Go and do likewise."

We may not know our neighbors by their names, but we know them by their habits; there is the man who hungers, there is the woman who mourns, there is the father who suffers. Let us go and be neighbors.

Peace,

John Strawbridge, LAY LEADER

A GIFT TO AFRICA UNIVERSITY

After four years serving as Episcopal Leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, and more than thirty years serving as a Methodist pastor, Bishop Marcus Matthews is retiring this year. Rather than honoring him with a retirement gift, Bishop Matthews has requested that we make a contribution to Africa University – specifically to the campaign to fund a much-needed Athletic Center.

Africa University in Zimbabwe was founded in 1988 by an official act of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Since then it has blossomed into a continent-wide resource for much needed education opportunity. www.africau.edu

Each church, board, conference employee and pastor is being asked to consider supporting this important development effort. To contribute towards Lovely Lane's gift to Africa University, please place your donation in the offering plate, or send to the church office. Be sure to note "Africa University" in the memo line or on the envelope.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!

CALENDAR

Every Sunday

Worship, 11 AM
Fellowship Hour/Guided Tour, NOON

Every Wednesday

Baltimore Folk Music Society, 8 PM
weekly dances

Every Saturday

Seidel Martial Arts, 8 AM

Friday, April 1

Bethel UMC of Green Creek Tour, 12:30 PM

Saturday, April 2

Calvary UMC Tour, 2 PM
Marilyn Warshawsky's Goucher Book Launch,
LL Hall, 2:30 PM

Sunday, April 3

Guest Preacher: Rev. Alfred Day, General Secretary,
General Commission Archives & History,
Sanctuary, 11 AM
New Exhibit - "The Brand & the Bishop",
Chapel & Museum, NOON
Grace UMC Tour, NOON
Calvary UMC Tour, NOON
Asbury Commemoration & Dedication Service,
Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 3 PM

Saturday, April 9

Arbutus UMC Tour, 10:30 AM

Sunday, April 10

Towson UMC Tour, NOON
An Hour with Maria Drumm: "Ethiopia: An Ancient
Land of Traditions, Sacred Monuments and the
Queen of Sheba", LL Hall, 12:45 PM

Wednesday, April 13

Trustees Meeting, Pastor's Study, 7 PM

Thursday, April 14

Anne Arundel Community College Tour, 1 PM

Saturday, April 16

Good Hope Union & Good Shepherd Tour, 10 AM

Sunday, April 17

Worship - Guest Speaker: Saleem Gauhar of Manna
House, Sanctuary, 11 AM

Saturday, April 23

Grace UMC Tour, 10 AM
Union Chapel UMC Tour, 10 AM
Burnt Factory UMC Tour, 10 AM

Tuesday-Thursday, April 26-28

Korean Methodist Conference

Saturday, April 30

Shepherdstown UMC Tour, 10 AM
UMC of Mantua Tour, 11 AM

