

# THE TOWER

## MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 10

June 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

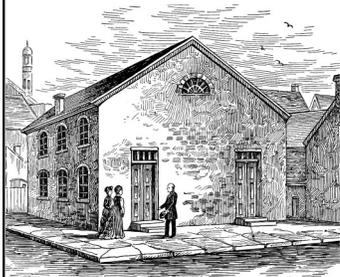
LAY LEADER  
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST  
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA  
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Lena Leone

SEXTON  
Ivan Reyes



*Grace and peace sisters  
and brothers in Christ,*

As I write this, General Conference is recently concluded, and a great deal of contemplation is in order.

General Conference is a once every 4 years event when delegates from the UMC around the world meet to experience Holy Conferencing, to revise our Book of Discipline on matters of faith and practice, and to determine the focus and direction of the church going forward. It met this May.

This General Conference, more than any from the last 44 years, was paralyzed by the issue of LGBTQ relations within the church. That is saying something, because this issue has been front and center for each of these recent General Conferences as well. We as a church seem unable to find common ground within our fellowship on this issue. Opinions are not hard to find, but genuine dialogue and any kind of progress on the question is.

In the Washington Post they asked if the UMC could stay together, and many within the church are asking that very same question. I wish that I had an answer.

The conference voted to refer this topic to the council of bishops. They are asked to facilitate a church wide conversation over the next few years. The hope is that with a possible single-topic special General Conference in 2 years we can either resolve this issue for the church or determine how the church can be split equitably if no resolution is possible. To say that the UMC is at a critical juncture is not an overstatement.

What can a pastor say to the congregation he or she serves in the midst of this? I guess my only wisdom is to recall what the Rev. Eric Law, a guest at a recent Annual Conference of the BWC shared. If real dialogue is to occur, the powerful must be given the grace to listen, and the powerless the grace to speak. We who are powerful, let us pray for the grace to listen. Any among us who are powerless - let us pray that they be given the grace to speak.

Is it God's will that we split the UMC? I do

not know. Can a middle ground be found that is acceptable to both sides of this debate? I do not know. Will the UMC remain as intact as it currently is, or will this be the birth of two or more separate branches within the UMC? I do not know. It has happened before. It may be happening again.

In the face of this uncertainty, what should we then do? Serve and love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, and strength. Seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Listen carefully, and speak hesitantly. Pray. In the midst of this conversation there remain broken and hurting children of God within and outside of our walls. We must seek reconciliation between ourselves and each other, and ourselves and God. In the midst of a painful conversation, we must love, forgive, listen, and serve. In the words of our membership vows - we are promised to support the ministries of our congregation with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. That has not changed. With God's help, it will not change.

In God's service,

*Pastor Travis*

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## OPEN MINDS

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### *From the Lay Leader...*

Like most people, my path to adulthood is littered with a lot of bad school art projects.

As a school kid, you work in some of strange media. Egg cartons and paper towel tubes are right in there with paint and chalk. We had a pottery room in my elementary school. Not so much because the educational curriculum stated that all kids needed to know how to mold clay, but because some long ago administration had installed a kiln. And since we had a kiln, we were going to learn pottery.

I remember one ashtray I made as a gift for my father. It had brightly colored bands of red and blue around its gently flared sides. It was a great piece in every respect, except for its utter failure as an ashtray. A cigarette would promptly fall out and roll away. If you had used it, it would surely have burned the house down.

In the United Methodist Church, our path to adulthood is littered with conferences. At Lovely Lane, we just hosted the American Conference of the Korean Methodist Episcopal Church. Out in Portland, Oregon, we have just concluded our General Conference, where delegates from the worldwide church meet once every four years. In DC, we are just beginning our Annual Conference, where members from each congregation in an area – in our case Baltimore-Washington – meet once a year. And this summer there will be a Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, at which we will receive a new bishop.

And instead of working in paint or clay, conferences work in the much more difficult media of resolutions and amendments. Like a school art class, it is a messy process that often produces strange results. It's not always clear what the finished work is meant to represent, but you know that someone put a lot of time into it.

The path to adulthood is mostly a time of learning. And learning frequently comes in the form of mistakes. Or if not outright mistakes, then of well-meaning efforts that don't always turn out the way we want.

The thing about my not-suitable-for-cigarettes ashtray is that I was proud of it at the time. I thought it came out great. It was only years later that I saw it through a differ-

### **SHELL LECTURE SERIES**

The inaugural year of the Schell Lecture series continues when archeologist Kirsti Uunila will present her talk; "Competing Identity: Methodist Episcopal & Voodoo Practices in African American Life"

Uunila will share things she has learned from excavating nineteenth-century sites related to African-Americans in southern Maryland. "The objects and inferred practices that I plan to talk about can be found throughout the middle Atlantic and the south," Uunila tells us. "I use what I have learned from my training applied to local history and archaeology to share in local public conversations on race, social relations, and education."

Saturday, June 18 at 2:00 PM in Lovely Lane Hall. Light refreshments are served at 1:30 PM.

Admission is \$10.00/person (\$5.00/members of UMHS).

ent pair of eyes, and wondered what I could possibly have been thinking.

But more importantly; my father was proud of it. He kept it on his dresser for as long as I can remember. He treasured it because his son had made it. And so he saw it through a father's eyes.

As we the Church – or even we as individuals – go about our clumsy, immature efforts, sometimes making a mess as we do, the only thing we can really have confidence in is the belief that our Father looks at our work through father's eyes. We hope that He judges us not by our successes or failures, but with love for our desire to do something for Him. For our willingness to make the attempt. Recognizing that we want to do the beautiful and good thing.

We try. We learn. We grow.

My father never did use my pottery as an ashtray. But he was able to use it to keep spare change. So even though I hadn't succeeded in the way I wanted to, my father found a way to bring some good out of it.

Whatever results come out of our many efforts, we know that, in the end, God will find the way.

Peace,

*John Strawbridge, LAY LEADER*

### **BOARD OF CHILD CARE AUXILIARY**

The Board of Child Care is a human services organization that helps children. Since 1874, they have given children and their families hope for the future & power in their present lives. This agency serves more than 1,300 people through residential and community-based services.

The Auxiliary is an organization of volunteers & supporters from across the conference who share the love of Christ with children and families served by the BCC. This group sponsors additional activities to give a well-rounded experience. Projects include: graduation gifts, Easter baskets, Thanksgiving food baskets, field trips, birthday cards & gifts, Christmas Gift Shop for children to shop for their loved ones at bargain prices.

Envelopes will be on the table in Lovely Lane Hall and included in the bulletins beginning June 12th to support this work by renewing your membership in the auxiliary or by making a donation. Eleanor Packard is the contact person.

# OPEN DOORS

## MANNA HOUSE

**435 E 25TH STREET  
BALTIMORE 21218  
410-889-3001**

The Drop-In-Center provides a morning meal from 8:30-10:15AM every day. Other services include clothing, food vouchers, warm showers, bus tokens & access to case management etc. continue from 11:30AM-4PM (Mon-Fri).

**Your support makes a difference!**

## SUNDAY LEADERSHIP

### Tour Guides

June 5 Carol Curtis  
June 12 Eleanor Packard  
June 19 Lee Enos  
June 26 Sarah Scribner

### Greeters

June 5 Kamila Alexander, Sam & Xavier  
June 12 Susan Allenback & J. Strawbridge  
June 19 Linda Webb & Elizabeth Brannan  
June 26 Aimee & Ken Delaney

## LECTIONARY READINGS

### **June 5**

*Third Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Kings 17:8-24  
Psalm 146 (UMH 858)  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17

### **June 12**

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Kings 21:1-21a  
Psalm 5:1-8 (UMH 742)  
Galatians 2:15-21  
Luke 7:36-8:3

### **June 19**

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Kings 19:1-15a  
Psalm 42 (UMH 777)  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

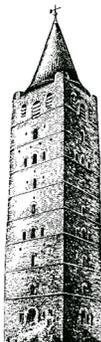
### **June 26**

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 (UMH 798)  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

## TOWER LIGHTING

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.



## RESTORATION GIFTS

### In Memory of

**Roberta Diggs LeKites**  
*Gretchen & David LeKites*

### In Honor of

**The Brannan Family**  
*Linda Webb*

*First UMC (Mechanicsburg, PA)  
Brookfield UMC  
Calvary UMC (Mt. Airy, MD)  
UM Women - First UMC of Hampton  
Shepherdstown UMC  
All Saints Church*



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year the Baltimore-Washington Conference (region) will be holding our Annual Conference (meeting) in Washington on June 1-3. John Strawbridge (our Lay Member to conference), Travis Knoll (pastor), Emora Brannan (retired pastor), Robert Shindle (conference staff) and others will be attending this annual meeting to approve ordinands, celebrate retirees, mourn our dead, thank God for another year of faithful service among our congregations and leadership, and consider our rules, budget, and order together. We will wish Bishop Matthews a fond farewell, donate to Africa University in his honor, and greet friends and colleagues perhaps not seen since last Annual Conference. Please pray for the Conference (both region and meeting) during these days, that God will guide us in our deliberations and conversation as we seek to do his work together.

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Our photo directory is a year old at the end of this month. It is time to update it. If you have a newer photograph we can include for you and your family, please email it to Lena at lovely.lane.bcs@gmail.com. If you don't have one, and would like us to take one, please come ready to be photographed on June 19, 26, or July 3 and we will take a photograph of you for the directory here following worship. A copy of the current directory will be available during the month of June in the fellowship hall following our worship for you to check and update so we can have current and correct information. Please either write updates into that copy or email Lena with corrections so we can include them in our 2016 directory. Thank you!

**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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**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

~~**Wednesday, June 1 - Friday, June 3**~~

BWC Annual Conference, Washington DC

**Sunday, June 5**

Isaac Mawokomatanda preaching,  
Sanctuary, 11 AM  
John Strawbridge's Stories & Photos of Methodist  
Historic Sites in England, Chapel, 12:30 PM

**Wednesday, June 8**

SPRC Meeting, Pastor's Study, 7 PM

**Friday, June 10**

University of MD Alternative Breaks Program  
Overnight Arrives

**Saturday, June 18**

Boise First UMC Overnight Arrives  
Schell Lecture Series, LL Hall, 2 PM  
Guest Speaker: Kirsti Uunila, Archaeologist

**Monday, June 20**

Mt. Airy Senior Center Tour, 9:30 AM

**Tuesday, June 21**

Mt. Airy Senior Center Tour, 9:30 AM

**Saturday, June 25**

Good Hope Union UMC Tour, 9:30 AM  
Keuka United Christian Ashram Meeting, Library, 1 PM  
Keuka United Christian Ashram Tour, 2:30 PM

**Wednesday, June 29**

Lovely Lane Adult Education Series, Schell Room, 7 PM  
Speaker Sarah Knoll will share with us her experiences  
doing Archaeology in Jordan