

THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

September 2017



Lovely Lane United Methodist Church

MOTHER CHURCH OF
AMERICAN METHODISM



2200 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore MD 21218-5805

Worship 10:00 AM

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
9 AM — 2 PM

Phone
410-889-1512

Email
LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com

Website
LovelyLane.net

PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Patricia Sebring

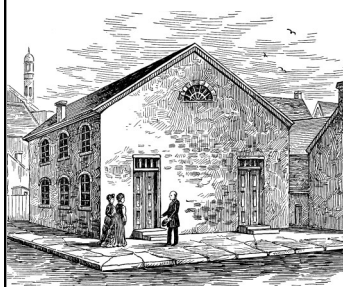
LAY LEADER
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

SEXTON
Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Lena Leone



Beloved Saints of Lovely Lane,

From the Pastor's Desk...

I have found the daily news hard to hear these past months. Each day seems to bring news we do not want to hear. The news is filled with tensions between nations threatening nuclear war and our local reports of crime and violence in the city of Baltimore and the region around us. Scanning the news you find the reports of terrorism, neo-Nazis, and political turmoil, and natural disasters. Personal lives are touched by disease, grief, tragedy, and struggle. A song lyric from long ago asks, "is that all there is?"

As Christians we know a larger reality—there is more to the story than the focus on the negative. There is help and there is hope! While it may seem at time that evil has the upper hand, there is a name that is above all names and a power that is greater than any force that strives to go against it. In the midst of despair and threatening situations, I turn to Psalm 121 for assurance of God's presence:

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

As I write, the long-awaited celestial event of the eclipse is upon us. As deep darkness comes in the middle of the day, the psalmist uses the sun and the moon to remind us of God's protection:

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

As fleeting as the moments of darkness in an eclipse are the moments where it appears that evil triumphs in our world. The reassurance of God's protection are reflected in the final words of Psalm 121:

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Even in the face of death, the power of our Lord triumphs. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Jesus has triumphed over the power of death and all who believe in the Savior have the gift of abundant life now and life forevermore.






When the news of the day is anything but good, we have the Good News! Jesus spoke to his first disciples and to us: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

Sharing your joy in Jesus,

Pastor Patricia

Please keep your pastor posted on needs for prayer and pastoral care (including hospital visits & shut-in visitation) by calling or texting her on her cell phone at 443-510-3308.

OPEN DOORS

RESTORATION GIFTS	TOUR GUIDES	LECTIONARY READINGS
Anonymous Roland & Carolyn Brown Sally Knapp Mt. Calvary UMC Jackie Noller Pat Strawbridge Eric Ward	Sept 3 Lenore Baier Sept 10 Mike Rouse Sept 17 John Strawbridge Sept 24 Carol Curtis	September 3 13th Sunday After Pentecost Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28 September 10 14th Sunday After Pentecost Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20 September 17 15th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Exodus 15:1b-11 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35 September 24 16th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
	SCHEDULE CHANGE Remember that Sunday, September 10 we will resume Worship at 11am with Fellowship Hour and Public Tour to follow. 	
GREETERS September 3 Nancy & Emora Brannan September 10 Linda Webb & Elizabeth Brannan September 17 Suzanna Maddox & Michael Rouse September 24 Carol Curtis & John Hutchinson	ALTAR FLOWERS September 3 In Honor of Emora & Patrick Brannan, for their Birthdays By Nancy Brannan 	
CHURCH WORK DAY Saturday, September 9th at 9AM		

UMHS ANNUAL MEETING AT EMORY GROVE

The United Methodist Historical Society of the BW Conference will hold its annual meeting at the historic Emory Grove site on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 9:45 a.m. until noon. Lunch will be served at noon for \$15; reservations are required. The day will be filled with historical presentations, music and worship. Special guest musicians are The Damascus Road Trio. The Rev. Emora Brannan, conference historian, will present on "John Emory and the Camp Meeting Spirit." This year marks the 150th Anniversary of Emory Grove, located at 102 Waugh Ave. in Reisterstown. This historic site was established in 1867 "for the purpose of promoting the cause of morality and religion by holding camp meetings under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church." Make your lunch reservations online at www.lovelylanemuseum.org/contact, or by calling 410-889-1512.

WELCOME BALTIMORE TAI CHI TO LOVELY LANE!

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese martial art practiced for health and relaxation. Its slow movements help you to reduce stress, improve circulation, and increase your sense of well being. People of all ages and abilities can practice tai chi to increase energy and vitality. It is an exercise that can be practiced for a lifetime.

Eric Johnson and Fiona Newton have been teaching tai chi classes in Baltimore, Towson and surrounding areas for over 20 years. They will begin teaching their 10 week fall session on Monday evenings at Lovely Lane beginning September 18, and will offer Lovely Lane members half off the price of the class. Please see www.baltimoretaichi.com for more information, and call 410-296-4944 to sign up.

OPEN MINDS

From the Lay Leader...

How was your summer? At Lovely Lane, ours was all wet.

Water is a funny thing. It can make your day or ruin it. A summer vacation by the water is great; swimming, surfing or sailing. But add in some rain, and suddenly it's a bad day.

At Lovely Lane this month, a little water in the wrong place is causing us great headache. We have water coming in through the roof. That is damaging the paint, dampening the carpet, and necessitating expensive roof repairs. On the extreme opposite end, we had a small flood in the lower level. As a result of this, we've had to close the museum, tear up carpet, test and treat for mold and do other recovery work.

And while our floods may not have been "biblical," they remind us that water is an important and potent image in the Bible. Even before "Let there be light," the Bible speaks of God's spirit moving over the water [Genesis 1:2]. And when God gathers the waters together, the earth we live on is created. But later in Genesis, God uses water to destroy the earth. Water shows up again and again in the Old Testament. It springs forth from a rock. It parts to let the Israelites pass, and closes to destroy their pursuers. It is poured over an altar that still is set aflame.

Water is a vital image in the New Testament as well. Jesus was baptized in it, he sent demons to drown themselves in it, and he walked on it. Miraculous as these were, each of these acts was merely a symbol of the larger meanings of God-with-us.

With water playing such a major role in scripture and in the ministry of Christ, we know that God thinks this metaphor will help us understand something. But what?

Sure, water is life-giving and all around us, as are God and the Holy Spirit. But water can also be irritating, damaging or even deadly. There are times when we want more of it, and times when we want to be rid of it. Is that how we should see the Spirit of God?

Perhaps the water does not stand for some one thing. But as water flows and carves out valleys... in the way it changes from rain to snow to steam... it demonstrates of the transformative power of the Spirit – the ability of the Spirit not only to effect change in us, but in the world. It is our relationship with God that flows both ways and is ever in motion.

But what about water's potential to cause harm? This keeps us mindful that it is not enough to bathe ourselves in our faith and think that we are living the life God wants us to live. Like water, which must flow to stay fresh or risk stagnation, our faith must be constantly in motion. We must use it - with care - to transform for the better our own lives and the lives of those we touch. Used carelessly, our faith can be hurtful, and can even turn others away from God.

How can we know the difference?

It was Jesus who stilled the waters, and turned water into wine. If we allow Christ to be the transforming power in our own lives, then we can be sure our spirit will be as welcome as a cool drink of water on a hot summer day.

Peace,
John Strawbridge,
LAY LEADER

ANNOUNCING: OUR ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 19, 2017

1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Wanda Bynum Duckett, will be at our church to conduct the annual business meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. All church members are invited to be in attendance for this meeting. Unlike a charge conference, all church members in attendance may vote during a church conference. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your church and to meet our new District Superintendent. Plan to stay after worship on that Sunday and participate in this annual meeting that sets the course of the church for the year ahead.

ARTS IN OUR SACRED SPACE

When our Centennial Monument building was erected, we were outside the city of Baltimore. But God knew where "Baltimore City Station had responsibility, and the city quickly grew to the point where we are now almost in the middle of the city. Now, in our current age, Lovely Lane again finds itself in the middle of a community growing around it. The Station North Arts District in Baltimore is a burgeoning area of interest, investment, and activity, and Lovely Lane sits on top of it.

This year, the Trustees, Church Council and Building Renovation Task Force are looking at ways to help Lovely Lane fulfill its mission to "recognize our unique presence and mission in the city." We are working with Partners for Sacred Spaces to help us identify ways that we can both be a resource for this community, and increase our own use of building. Plus there may be some grant opportunities along the way. Look for more details and developments in upcoming issues of the Tower Monthly.

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 Service, Sanctuary, see below
Fellowship Hour, LL Hall, 12 PM
Guided Tour, 12 PM

Every Monday

Baltimore Tai Chi, LL Hall & Conference Room, 6:30 PM

Every Wednesday

Balt. Folk Music Society Dance, LL Hall, 8 PM

Every Saturday

Seidel Martial Arts, LL Hall, 8 AM
RoC Youth Basketball & Evangelism, Gym, 10 AM

Sunday, September 3

Worship Service, Sanctuary, 10 AM
Fellowship Hour, LL Hall, 11 AM
Guided Tour, 11 AM

Wednesday, September 6

Mosaic Crab Feast, LL Hall, 9 AM

Saturday, September 9

Church Work Day, 9 AM

Sunday, September 10

11 AM Worship Service Resumes, Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour, LL Hall, 12 PM
Guided Tour, 12 PM

Saturday, September 16

UMHS Meeting, Emory Grove, 9:45 AM

Saturday, September 23

Burnt Factory UMC Tour, 10 AM

Sunday, September 24

Church Council Meeting, LL Hall, 12:30 PM

Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday

