

# THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

October 2017

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

## 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

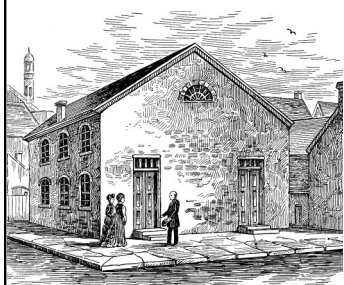
#### PASTOR EMERITA

Rev. Nancy Nedwell

#### SEXTON

Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Lena Leone



## *Beloved Saints of Lovely Lane,*

While September marks the official calendar date for autumn to begin, it is not until October that you begin to see and feel the season beginning. Cooler temperatures are often a welcome change from the heat of summer. An abundance of fall pumpkins and apples fill the markets. Pumpkins spice latte is the promoted drink of many coffee lovers and apple cider delights the palates of others. Many rejoice at the beauty of the landscape filled with colors as the leaves prepare to fall from the tree.

Personally, for me fall is not my favorite season. I delight in the coming of spring with all the freshness and beauty of new life. I do not like bare tree limbs and brown grass that are the final phase of the autumn season as it gives way to winter. When I begin to lament that it is a long wait to spring and threaten to spend my time gluing the leaves back on the trees, someone needs to remind me that between fall and spring, in the winter, comes Christmas. That puts the smile back on my face and I find the season of fall a bit easier to embrace.

While it appears in autumn that things are ending, it is when God is preparing to do a new thing. The last weeks of fall in December are the last weeks of waiting for Christmas—of waiting for the nativity of our Lord. God is truly about to do a new thing in coming as one in human flesh to dwell among us.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, may we look at nature as an example of preparing for the new thing God wants to do in us. It is a season for shedding encumbrances – clearing our hearts of that which is out of season and keeping that which will sprout new life in us in due season. We all have that which the world classes as “baggage” that is better left behind rather than dragged forward into our future. Perhaps each day as we witness fall’s changing landscape we can spend time in prayer to ask God to show us what we need to shed from our heavy hearts to release space for the incoming of Christ. And with the indwelling of Christ, there will be new growth! Having made space, we have a place for that growth to happen.

Clearing the branches of our life we can employ the tools of prayer, meditation, scripture reading, devotional music and texts, and holy conversation with other disciples. This year I’m planning to use some post-it notes in my evening devotions and each night write down something that needs to fall from the limbs of the past and the present day to create a clear place for the work of God incarnate in Jesus Christ.




As we go through every season of nature & life, let us remember that we never go alone. God watches over us, Christ companions us, and the Holy Spirit travels within us. Take time this fall to listen to the rustle of the leaves being blown by the wind, and remember that your spirit is being propelled by God toward the future.

Sharing your joy in Jesus,

*Pastor Patricia*

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

# OPEN DOORS

GREETERS	TOUR GUIDES	LECTIONARY READINGS
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 1</b> Elizabeth, Sean, Liam &amp; Owen Hines</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 8</b> Dennis &amp; Angie Ferguson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 15</b> Susanna Maddox &amp; Mike Rouse</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 22</b> Jackie Noller &amp; Betsy Fisk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 29</b> Cathy Dryden &amp; Dean Uhler</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>November 5</b> Susan Preston &amp; Craig Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>November 12</b> Abedoh &amp; Enos Family</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>November 19</b> Marisa, Johnny &amp; Daria Olszewski</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>November 26</b> Carrie Harnick</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 3</b> Carol Curtis &amp; John Hutchinson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 10</b> Aimee &amp; Ken Delaney</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 17</b> Susanna Maddox &amp; Mike Rouse</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 24</b> 11 AM - Nancy &amp; Emora Brannan 6:45 PM - Elizabeth Brannan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 31</b> Sharra Kelly &amp; Robert Furbay</p>	<p><b>Oct 1</b> Craig Smith</p> <p><b>Oct 8</b> Eleanor Packard</p> <p><b>Oct 15</b> Lee Enos</p> <p><b>Oct 22</b> Sarah Scribner</p> <p><b>Oct 29</b> Cathy Dryden</p> <p><b>Nov 5</b> Lenore Baier</p> <p><b>Nov 12</b> Sefi Abedoh</p> <p><b>Nov 19</b> Mike Rouse</p> <p><b>Nov 26</b> John Strawbridge</p> <p><b>Dec 3</b> Carol Curtis</p> <p><b>Dec 10</b> Craig Smith</p> <p><b>Dec 17</b> Eleanor Packard</p> <p><b>Dec 24</b> Lee Enos</p> <p><b>Dec 31</b> Sarah Scribner</p>	<p><b>October 1</b> <i>World Communion Sunday</i> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799) Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32</p> <p><b>October 8</b> <i>18th Sunday After Pentecost</i> Exodus 20:1-4 Psalm 19 (UMH 750) Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46</p> <p><b>October 15</b> <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829) Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14</p> <p><b>October 22</b> <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i> Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 (UMH 819) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22</p> <p><b>October 29</b> <i>21st Sunday after Pentecost</i> Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46</p>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>		
<p><b>October 1</b> In Memory of <b>Twyla A. Noller,</b> <i>By her Daughter, Jackie Noller</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;">  <p style="text-align: center;">† † †</p> </div> <p><b>October 15</b> In Honor of <b>Sarah Scribner,</b> for her Birthday</p>		

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Jackson Robert Spurling was born to Kristinae (Olaughlin) and Nick Spurling and big sister Ellie, on September 22nd. Proud grandparents are Jack and Marlene Olaughlin who promise to share photos of the latest addition to their family!

## WORSHIP WATCHWORD

- Oct. 1 - World Communion Sunday  
Worship with international flavor!
- Oct. 8 - Children's Sabbath  
The Church's role in caring for the children of the world
- Oct. 15 - Baptisms and Reception of New Members
- Oct. 22 - Service of Healing Prayers with Anointing
- Oct. 29 - Reformation Sunday  
Celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

## WITH GREAT APPRECIATION

The congregation, and especially the Church Council, are grateful to Laura Coleman who has served as secretary of the Council for many years. Her work has helped us all keep track of decisions made and dates on our calendar. We give thanks to God that she used her talents and time to serve in this capacity and pray that she remains an active member of the Council for years to come. Sarah Scribner has agreed to fill the position of Church Council Secretary and we are grateful to her for agreeing to assume these duties. May God bless both Laura and Sarah.

## HURRICANE RELIEF

Lovely Lane United Methodist Women's Fund has made a \$300 donation to UMCOR, designated for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. In addition to that gift, we would like to encourage church members and Tower readers to make additional gifts toward recovery from the devastating hurricanes.

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## OPEN MINDS

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

As I write this, there are countries pointing missiles at each other. Cities recovering from terrorist attack. Communities torn to rubble by storms and earthquakes. And streets filled with rioters. At such a time, it can feel pretty shallow to say, "Trust in the Lord, and everything will be fine."

Is it wrong to have hope, when things are so bad?

Last week, a woman came to the door of Lovely Lane with a complicated and seemingly unsolvable problem. I told her I would keep her in my prayers. "That's what people say when they aren't going to help," she said.

Being a Christian can be hard. Not always hard like the martyrs had it hard when they were tortured and killed for holding fast to their beliefs. But hard in a quieter way. It's hard when you want to say that God is the answer to everything, but you have so many questions yourself. When you want to offer light, but feel surrounded by darkness. When you want to give – but feel like you have nothing to offer.

Is it wrong to have hope, when things are so bad?

At times like these it can feel naive... even foolish... to be the person who says, "Have faith; everything will be fine." For those in need... those in fear... lofty words and empty actions don't feel like help. Like giving a screwdriver to a drowning man – the wrong tool at the wrong time may be worse than doing nothing.

So is it wrong to have hope when things are so bad?

Is hope something we cling to just to make ourselves feel better? Is it a lifeline we offer when we don't really have anything to offer?

No, I don't think it is. Very much the opposite, I think it is one of the most powerful "weapons" we can wield. But like any sharp tool, it must be used with care.

To use hope as a blunt instrument – to simply hit people over the head with it – can cause more damage than good. What people may hear is that they are too stupid or short-sighted to see that they really should feel good. It causes offense to tell someone they don't have a real problem. People who hear this will only turn away, or lash back.

For hope to be effective, it has to begin with listening. As Christians, this is our first duty. We cannot use our faith in God to shield ourselves from the bad things. We must look, we must listen, we must feel.

Then, and only then, can we give Hope. But we don't offer it up on a plate – we offer it by example. We let people see Hope at work in our lives. We live the transforming power of Hope, and let people witness the change it in makes in us. We let them see that Hope makes our lives better. That Hope makes us better, happier, and more effective.

Darkness is contagious. Anger, fear, and pessimism can breed the same feelings in those close by. But in living our lives with Hope, we can stop the spread. Picture a line of falling dominoes; if you can interrupt the flow in just one spot, you can end the whole process. Even a few people acting in a few places can prevent a trickle from becoming a flood.

We don't deny that things are bad. But we do refuse to allow that things have to be bad, or that they will always be bad. Yes, action will have to be taken. But we must stop the spread before healing can begin.

Is it wrong to have hope? No – it is the first step to making things better.

Peace,  
*John Strawbridge,*  
LAY LEADER

### WELL HELLO DOLORES!

Just like the song says, "Well hello Dolly-it's so nice to have you back where you belong". We rejoiced to have Dolores Shaw join us for worship September 24th. Dolores served as church secretary and tour guide of Lovely Lane for over 50 years! Following worship, Dolores went up to the organ loft and played some favorite hymns for us. Thanks to the kindness of Jack & Marlene O'Laughlin who provided transportation for Dolores to be with us. And thanks to our organist Bill Scanlan Murphy who welcomed Dolores to play the organ in the sanctuary following worship.



**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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## CALENDAR

### Every Sunday

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

### Every Monday

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

### Every Wednesday

Baltimore Folk Music Society Dance, LL Hall, 7:30 PM

### Every Saturday

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

### Tuesday, October 17

Finance Committee Meeting, Library, 5:30 PM

### Wednesday, October 18

Trustees Meeting, Library, 7 PM

### Wednesday, October 25

BLS High School Presentation & Workshop, LL Hall, 10 AM

### Sunday, October 28

Doors Open Baltimore, 10 AM

### Sunday, October 29

Church Council Meeting, LL Hall, 12:30 PM

### Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday

### Tuesday, October 4

SPRC Meeting, Library, 6 PM

### Saturday, October 7

Church Work Day, 9 AM

### Saturday, October 14

Strawbridge Shrine Annual Meeting, 10 AM

