

# THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

November 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**

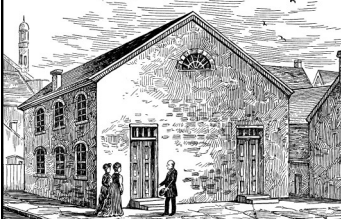
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

**SEXTON**

Ivan Reyes

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Lena Leone



## *Beloved Saints of Lovely Lane,*

With November comes a season of giving thanks. Gratitude is so important in every aspect of our lives. We know that the initial immigrants to America were so very grateful for the blessings of God's providential care supplying them with life, and health, and food that they proclaimed a day for celebration. We are grateful for the courage of the early pilgrims and all who set the stage for our Thanksgiving Day celebration.

However, a day is simply not enough time to thank God for all that God has done for us. Scripture reminds us to give thanks to the Lord in every season and in all circumstances. Let's make November our "thanks tune-up" month—doing our very best to thank God each day for ordinary and extraordinary blessings. The sun that rises, the rain that falls, the fruit of the harvest, the blessings of family, the companionship of friends, and all that which God carries us through are cause for offering thanks. The homes in which we live, the nation we call ours, the people who form the fabric of life—our neighbors, co-workers, and service providers—are all cause for offering thanks.

The church we love is also a cause for giving thanks to God. Lovely Lane has been blessed by God throughout the years, and we are blessed in this day to inherit that blessing and be charged with caring for it. Every day we are paying forward that which we have received and delivering it into the hands of future generations. We are grateful for all who support the church and ensure its viability today and tomorrow.

Meriam Webster defines stewardship as "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." November is our month to carefully consider our role in the stewardship of the Church. The Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 26th, will be your opportunity to pledge your commitment to support the church in 2018. On November 26th we also celebrate Christ the King as our Lord, and the best gifts we can give to crown him as our King are to pledge our commitment to serve him with our whole heart and to support this church in the year ahead. The expression of gratitude to God that comes with a promise of service and financial support delights our Lord and serves as a living tribute to the one for whom we give our heartfelt thanks, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sharing your joy in Jesus,  
*Pastor Patricia*

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH - 1:00 P.M. IN LOVELY LANE HALL**

Church Conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet our new District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Wanda Bynum Duckett, who will preside over the meeting. All members of the Church Council should plan to attend this meeting. All members of Lovely Lane UMC are invited to participate in the annual meeting of the church to make decisions at our Church Conference. Those who are not members may attend, but by our Book of Discipline they have neither voice nor vote in the business that will be conducted.

## WORSHIP WATCHWORD

<b>November 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Communion Sunday All Saints Sunday – Remembering the saints who have died in the last year Homecoming Sunday – Welcoming those members & friends we've missed
<b>November 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Service of Healing Prayers
<b>November 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Thanksgiving Sunday Church Conference at 1:00 p.m.
<b>November 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Christ the King Sunday and Commitment Sunday for 2018 Stewardship Baptisms and Receiving New members

**RESTORATION GIFTS**

Jackie Noller  
Nichols Bethel United Methodist  
Women Organization

Eleanor Packard

Sally Knapp  
Fairview UMC

Linda Webb

In Memory of  
**Elaine "Susie" Seeger**  
by Anne & Robert Seeger

In Honor of  
**Dolores Shaw**  
by David LeKites & Family

**GREETERS**

**November 5**  
Susan Preston & Craig Smith

**November 12**  
Abedoh & Enos Family

**November 19**  
Marisa, Johnny & Daria Olszewski

**November 26**  
Carrie Harnick

**TOUR GUIDES**

<b>Nov 5</b>	Lenore Baier
<b>Nov 12</b>	Sefi Abedoh
<b>Nov 19</b>	Mike Rouse
<b>Nov 26</b>	Cathy Dryden


**NEW ADDRESS**

Dolores Shaw  
c/o Lighthouse Senior Living  
1813 Old Eastern Avenue Apt. 244  
Essex MD 21221-1458

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Manna House Bull Roast**  
Friday, December 1st  
Rosedale Gardens

**TOWER LIGHTING**




**November 19**  
In Honor of  
**My Fabulous Family**  
By Betsy Fisk

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

**Homecoming Sunday - November 5**  
In Honor of  
**Sefi Abedoh & Lee Enos**

**November 12**  
In Honor of  
**Lenore Baier,**  
for her Birthday




**November 26**  
In Memory of  
**Fuller Strawbridge,**  
By John Strawbridge

**LECTIONARY READINGS**

**November 5**  
*All Saints Sunday*  
Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 (UMH 830)<sup>1</sup>  
Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

**November 12**  
*23rd Sunday After Pentecost*  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7 (UMH 799)  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

**November 19**  
*24th Sunday after Pentecost*  
Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123/Psalm 76 (UMH 797)  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30



**November 23**  
*Thanksgiving Day*  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18  
Psalm 65 (UMH 789)  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Luke 17:11-19

**November 26** *Commitment Sunday*  
*Reign of Christ Sunday*  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100 (UMH 821)  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

**OUR COMMUNITY IN CHRIST**

On October 22nd we celebrated the baptism of Evelyn Mays Armstrong, daughter of Toni & Scott Armstrong. We were blessed to have Evelyn's big brother Owen & grandparents, Bill & Valerie Armstrong, sharing in the celebration. Anyone interested in church membership or baptism for themselves or a family member should contact Pastor Patricia through her e-mail at revdrpls@gmail.com or on her cell phone, 443-510-3308.

**MANNA HOUSE ANNUAL BULL ROAST**

435 E 25th Street Baltimore MD 21218 410-889-3001

Manna House, a 52 year old agency Lovely Lane has long supported, will be holding their annual Bull Roast on Friday, December 1st, 2017 at Rosedale Gardens, 8307 Philadelphia Road, Rosedale MD 21237. For tickets, please call the Lovely Lane office or see Duncan Hodge.

Manna House provides a wide array of services, such as daily hot breakfast (68,752 in FY 2017), health care, showers, clothes, bus tokens, birth certificates & IDs, day shelter etc. Other long term services like case management help people move toward independence. Your help makes this possible and they welcome visitors from Lovely Lane.

**CHURCH WORK DAYS**

The Trustees have set Saturday, November 4th from 9am - 12 noon as the next work day for attending to some minor repairs around the building and to cleaning out the chapel alcoves. Many items need to be sorted through and some items will await disposal in our Dumpster Day on December 2nd when we will purge the catacombs beneath the church. All of this is in preparation to plan for renovations of the chapel & to prepare for greater use of the space by individuals & groups as part of our mission to connect individuals to community and Christ through arts & history.

**BOCC SUGGESTED CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**

PLEASE LEAVE ITEMS IN THE CONTAINER IN LOVELY LANE HALL BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH. Toiletries for teens, men & women; night lights; new cuddly blankets; new winter accessories, including socks, all sizes; new yoga or sweat pants for teens; new hoodies all sizes; board & card games new or gently used; sports equipment; fidget spinners; new baby dolls & stuffed animals; children's toys; alarm clocks or small radios; jewelry; kitchen utensils & small appliances, pots & pans, non-breakable dishes; new towels and bed sheets. BATTERIES ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

*From the Lay Leader...*

This is an odd time of year for Christians. We are already looking ahead to the season of Advent. We are scheduling vacation time from work, booking flights and making reservations for the holidays. And if you visit almost any store this time of year, you may see that, as the song assures us, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

But for many of us, this is all too soon. We're not ready to think about Advent. Christmas songs and decorations at the malls feel intrusive. We still have jack-o-lanterns in our yards and bowls full of Halloween candy. How can we think about shepherds and wise men, when we are still surrounded by witches and mummies?

In fact, a lot of us name Halloween as our favorite holiday. Not as much pressure as Thanksgiving... not as much shopping as Christmas. Halloween is generally seen as pure fun. An escape from daily life and responsibility. A chance to dress up and be someone else.

Of course, Halloween is not a holiday in the sense of being a "holy day." The next day, November 1st, is the holiday; All Saints Day. And that's a very important observance for Christians. But October 31st is the day that captures our imaginations. It is the day that allows us to indulge in our morbid fascination with death. Ghosts... skeletons... vampires and zombies... Some people will even dress up their yards as pretend cemeteries complete with spiderwebs, rats, werewolves and other dangerous beasts.

Death is the "ultimate mystery", and our I-can't-look-away curiosity about it has been a part of our various cultures for centuries. The Walters Art Museum has one of my favorite examples of this. On display there is a ten inch tall figure from the 1500's, carved out of boxwood in exquisite detail. It depicts a skeleton with tattered flesh hanging from his bones. It is so effectively gruesome that it is almost sublimely lovely.

The sculpture is one example of a popular genre of art known as "memento mori" or "reminder of death." As many such figures do, it bears the inscription, "Sum quod es, eris quod sum." In English that's, "I was what you are, I am what you will become." How's that for a chilling thought?

This particular reminder of our mortality is made even more potent by being made to resemble Adam in a famous painting of Adam & Eve. This is not just one person – it represents everyone who must suffer death from original sin.

Why do we have this obsession with death? Why would such grim images be valued collectors items?

I admit to my own fascination not only with this particular sculpture, but with the reminder itself, which has a certain poetry in its symmetry: "I was what you are, I am what you will be."

But for me, in my Christian mindset, this is neither a figure of horror nor a painful reminder. Adam reminds us that death held sway only before the New Covenant – the advent of Jesus the Christ. I hear those words as if it were Jesus saying them: "I was what you are, I am what you will become." Christ was human. But now he lives eternally. This is not a threat to the Christian, but a promise – Christ was like us, we will be like Christ. Our humanity will become divinity. Death is not an end, but a transition to new life. We shall live eternally through the sacrifice of Christ to death.

Who says Advent has to wait? Maybe the stores have it right. Christmas begins now. As we transition from Halloween to All Saints Day to Advent to Christmas... as skeletons in graves give way to a baby in a manger, let us be reminded of the defeat of death and the victory of Life... Memento Vitae.

Peace,  
*John Strawbridge,*  
LAY LEADER

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

Commitment is critical to who we are as a church and who we are becoming as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our giving to the church is a sign of our trust in God to supply all of our needs. Our giving is a means of fully expressing our joy for what Christ has done for us by giving his very life that we may have life eternal. Our giving enables our church to carry on Jesus' mission of sharing God's love and forgiveness in the world today. Our giving enables us to participate in God's work in the world!!!

Please take the Commitment Card enclosed in this newsletter and place it between your hands and from November 1st through November 25th, pray for God to lead you as you consider your financial commitment to the church for 2018. Consider the young people who visit our historic church as part of their confirmation classes. Consider the infants and adults we have baptized and will baptize. Consider the prayers we have offered for healing and guidance and comfort and how God has answered those prayers. Consider the weddings and funerals that have brought the power of God's grace into people's lives at transitional and transformative times. Consider the witness we are to the love of Jesus in the city of Baltimore and the world. Consider how important Lovely Lane has been in your own life and faith journey. Consider how the financial gifts flow from our church through our denomination to reach the lives of people beyond our immediate sphere of influence. Consider what you have given and ask God to help you grow in generosity and discipleship through your giving in the year ahead.

After that discipline of prayer, complete the Commitment Card and bring it with you to worship on November 26th. As we proclaim Christ as our King, you will have an opportunity to place that card upon the altar rail, thank God for every blessing in your life, and ask God to help you keep the promises you have made in the year ahead.

**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

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 6575

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**  
*THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!*

## CALENDAR

**Every Sunday**

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

**Every Monday**

BLS Badminton Club, Gym, 3:30 PM  
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

**Wednesday, November 1**

Old Goucher Community Association Meeting,  
Sanctuary, 7 PM

**Saturday, November 4**

Church Work Day, Chapel Alcove Cleaning, 9 AM  
Pine Grove UMC Tour, 10 AM  
Fashion Show Practice, LL Hall, 11 AM

**Sunday, November 5**

Homecoming Sunday

**Monday, November 6**

BLS Spanish Cooking Club, 3:30 PM

**Thursday, November 9**

Cherry Hill HS East Habitat for Humanity Overnight Arrives

**Friday, November 10**

Fashion Show Practice, LL Hall, 5 PM  
Suncrest UMC Overnight Arrives

**Saturday, November 11**

Cherry Hill HS East Habitat for Humanity Overnight Departs  
Suncrest UMC Tour, 10 AM  
Fashion Show, LL Hall & Conference Room, 5 PM

**Sunday, November 12**

Suncrest UMC Overnight Departs

**Monday & Tuesday, November 13 & 14**

New Curtain Installation, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, November 15**

\*Newsletter Items Due\*  
Mosaic Thanksgiving Feast, LL Hall, 9 AM

**Friday, November 17**

Huntingtown UMC Overnight Arrives

**Saturday, November 18**

BFMS Memorial Dance, LL Hall, 7 PM

**Sunday, November 19**

Charge Conference, LL Hall, 1 PM  
Huntingtown UMC Overnight Departs

**Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24**

Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

**Sunday, November 26**

Commitment Sunday

**Friday, December 1**

Manna House Bull Roast, Rosedale Gardens

