

THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 9

OPEN HEARTS

June 2018

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. Dr. Patricia Sebring

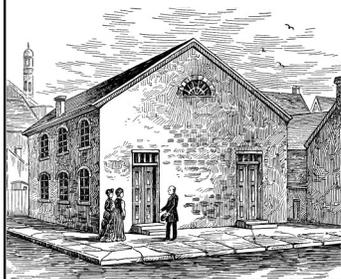
LAY LEADER
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

SEXTON
Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Lena Leone



To Everything There is A Season

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 New Revised Standard Version

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
3a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
7a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

As people of this area we know the change of seasons happen with regularity but not always in predictable ways. Sometimes a season lingers on and sometimes it is over before we realized it was here. In our personal lives we all know the seasons of change that create our stories. In the life of congregations and pastors in the United Methodist Church these seasons of serving Christ together are determined through the appointment process by the Bishop and Cabinet in consultation with the congregation and the pastor.

My season of serving as pastor of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church is ending this year. I am taking a leave of absence for renewal until the start of my next appointment in July of 2018. My next place of service in the Conference is currently being discerned and I ask your prayers for that process. Your new pastor, Reverend Deb Scott, will be in my prayers as will all of you for a good transition to your next season of serving our Lord.

In order to be free to minister to the people and community of my next appointment and in order to allow Reverend Scott to become your pastor in every aspect of your lives, the Conference has a policy on transition which states:

¶2412.† Returning to a Previous Appointment.

1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to effect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.

2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor.

The policy is an important part of our covenant in the itinerant system of ministry permitting each pastor to dedicate themselves fully to the work of ministry in the appointments they are called to serve and permitting each congregation to form a pastoral relationship with the pastor appointed to serve them.

It has been a joy and an honor to serve as the pastor of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church and I pray that God will bless us all through the time we have spent together.

Serving Christ with you,
Pastor Patricia

From the Pastor's Desk...

ALTAR FLOWERS**June 10**

In Honor of June Birthdays
Harry McCloskey, Carol Curtis
Sasha Bailey, Betsy Fisk
& Shirley Reckley
By Carol & John

June 17

In Honor of All Fathers
By Lenore Baier & Julia Henslee

June 24

In Honor of Anniversary Sunday
By Carol & John

**GREETERS****June 3**

Marisa, Johnny & Daria Olszewski

June 10

Carol Curtis & John Hutchinson

June 17

Carrie Harnick & Linda Webb

June 24

Nancy & Emora Brannan

TOUR GUIDES**June 3** Sarah Scribner**June 10** Cathy Dryden**June 17** Craig Smith**June 24** Sefi Abedoh**LITURGISTS****June 3** Marisa Olszewski**June 10** Nancy Brannan**June 17** Jackie Noller**June 24** Denzel Enos**LECTIONARY READINGS****June 3**

Second Sunday After Pentecost
 1 Samuel 3:1-20
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)
 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
 Mark 2:23-3:6

June 10

Third Sunday After Pentecost
 1 Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-15)
 Psalm 138 (UMH 853)
 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
 Mark 3:20-35

June 17

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
 Psalm 20/Psalm 72 (UMH 795)
 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17
 Mark 4:26-34

June 24

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
 1 Samuel 17:1, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49
 Psalm 9:9-20 (UMH 744)
 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
 Mark 4:35-41

CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday, June 2 - 9 AM - 12 PM
Mt. Olivet Cemetery

MT. OLIVET WORK DAY - JUNE 2ND

Our fearless leader, Duncan Hodge, urges us to join him for Church Work Day on June 2, 2018, in MT. OLIVET CEMETERY located at 2930 Frederick Avenue from 9 am – 12 pm. The mowing season has begun! Long sleeves, long pants, sun-screen and WATER are strongly encouraged! Mount Olivet Cemetery in west Baltimore, is a historic burial ground dating back to the mid-1800's, known as the "resting place of Methodist Bishops." We are deeply indebted to Walt Tegeler & his firm, Tegeler Monument, for their continued assistance in the upkeep of Mount Olivet. We are proud of the special improvements made to the Bishops' Lot at the time of the bicentennial of Bishop Francis Asbury. Mount Olivet is a place we should truly feel ourselves as a part of "the endless line of splendor".

WELCOME NEW PASTOR - JUNE 17TH

There will be a time of fellowship following worship service to welcome our new pastor, the Rev. Deborah (Deb) Scott, to Lovely Lane. Please join your church family as we begin this exciting transition.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY - JUNE 24TH

Anniversary Sunday will celebrate the founding of our congregation in 1772. Please join us for Fellowship Hour after the Worship Service, as we share time with our church family and continue to become acquainted with Rev. Scott. A Church Council Meeting will follow. The Reunion Choir of Baltimore will be performing in the Sanctuary at 2:30pm. They have performed for congregations throughout Baltimore City & County and have had the great fortune of collaborating with some of the finest singers and musicians in the country. The group has recorded three projects, including "Awesome God", a collection of wonderful songs which included a special arrangement of "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Baltimore's own Fernando Allen.

SUMMER SCHEDULE - JULY 1ST

Early worship begins at 10 am for the summer in the months of July & August. Worship services will resume at 11 am after Labor Day. Lemonade will be served on the Portico following worship services.

OPEN MINDS

From the Lay Leader...

I have a friend at work who makes this claim; “I consider myself religious, I’m just not into the whole church thing.” You probably have a friend or family member who says the same thing. The choice of words might be different, but it’s a common statement.

It’s a difficult thing for those of us who are into the “whole church thing” to respond to. How do you answer someone who professes to believe but feels that he or she doesn’t need church to have a relationship with God?

Certainly the Church (with a capital “C”) has done plenty to turn people away. In its various forms the Church can be bureaucratic, dogmatic, political, hypocritical and self-serving.

So as long as you are basically a believer and basically lead a good life, do you need to go to church?

Let’s hold onto that thought while I tell you a story. I once met a man who just didn’t “get” the Holy Spirit. God and Jesus he could understand – they had presence, a voice, and observable action. But the Spirit? What was it? What did it do?

I asked him to imagine jumping out of an airplane, but you never open your parachute. You know what would happen – you would hit the ground hard and unpleasantly. But imagine you jump out of a plane and open your parachute. Now you can land safely and (if you’re not too scared) even enjoy the ride.

The Holy Spirit, I said, is like the air. It is everywhere and seemingly insubstantial. It can let you down hard, or it can lift you and carry you and give you life. It doesn’t matter whether you believe in it. The difference is: You Have to Open Yourself to It.

The Christianity may go back to Jesus. But the Church really began on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit – the breath of God – came like a mighty wind.

That is the moment when it stopped being about the followers of Jesus, and began to be about the whole rest of the world. The day when, through the miracle of speaking in many tongues, the Disciples opened themselves up to the world, and to connecting to all God’s children.

You see, God made believing in Him a two-part contract:

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

We cannot love the Lord – we cannot have a relationship with Him – unless we also have a relationship with those he calls His own. We must love those he loves. We must live with those to whom he gives life.

How long can you hold your breath? If you’re average, it’s a little less than a minute. But here’s something you may not realize; it isn’t lack of oxygen that urges your body to breathe, it is the build-up of unhealthy carbon dioxide. When you finally gasp for air, the first thing you do is exhale. You get rid of what is inside you, in order to take in a new breath.

Church is that chance to get rid of what is inside us, and to breathe in something new. We cannot do that sealed up in our own bubble.

You can believe in God without going to church. But that belief is destined to become stale and unhealthy. Church is what breathes life into your relationship with God. Church is not an obligation – it is an opportunity. It is the chance to be open to the Spirit and be open to the world. It is not something you do for just to make God happy. It is how we fill ourselves with the Spirit.

Peace,
John Strawbridge, LAY LEADER



DOLORES SHAW ON DVD

Dolores Shaw has been the head tour guide for Lovely Lane & the Museum for more than 50 years! For so many of our tour groups, Dolores is the voice of Lovely Lane. Her memories and way of telling those stories are uniquely her own.

Jack O’Laughlin has worked with Dolores to capture her tour on video, and turn it into a DVD presentation. If you would like to own copy of this special living history for yourself, it can be ordered through the church office, for a \$20 donation to the Lovely Lane Restoration Fund.

Contact the church office at 410-889-1512 or LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com .

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 - Sanctuary, 12 PM

Every Monday

BLS Sports Club - Gym, 3:15 PM
Baltimore Tai Chi - Hall, Conference Room & Gym, 6:30 PM

Every Wednesday

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

Every Saturday

BLS Martial Arts - LL Hall, 8 AM

Wednesday, May 30 - Friday, June 1

Baltimore Washington Conference Annual Conference
Marriott Waterfront Hotel

Saturday, June 2

Church Work Day - Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 9 AM
Buck-I-Serv Ohio State University Overnight Arrives
First UMC Tour - Sanctuary, 10 AM

Friday, June 8

BLS Middle School Dance - LL Hall, 2 PM

Wednesday, June 13

BLS Middle School Graduation - LL Hall, 9 AM

Friday, June 15

BLS Lower School Awards & Graduation - LL Hall, 1 PM

Sunday, June 17

Welcome Our New Pastor, Rev. Deb Scott - Sanctuary, 11 AM

Saturday, June 23

Ellington Congregational Church Overnight Arrives
Reunion Choir of Baltimore Rehearsal - Sanctuary, 1:30 PM

Sunday, June 24

Anniversary Sunday
Church Council Meeting - LL Hall, 1 PM
Reunion Choir of Baltimore Concert - Sanctuary, 2:30 PM

Tuesday, June 26

Faith UMC Overnight Arrives

Friday, June 29

Faith UMC Overnight Departs
Wesley Seminary Theology Class Tour - Sanctuary, 1:30 PM

Saturday, June 30

Ellington Congregational Church Overnight Departs
45th Anniversary Concert & Dance - LL Hall, 1 PM

