

# THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 8

May 2018



## 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. Dr. Patricia Sebring

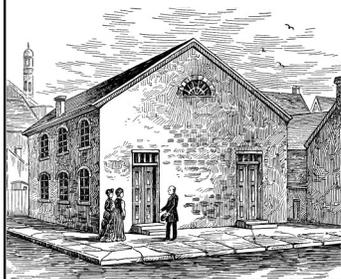
LAY LEADER  
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST  
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA  
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

SEXTON  
Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Lena Leone



### Great Occasions

It's a season when Facebook reveals your friends celebrating lots of occasions. Proms and graduations fill the screen with happy smiles and everyone all dressed up for the celebrations. Mother's Day with pictures of happy families gathered together this year or in years past. Bridal showers and bachelor/bachelorette parties show photos taken by all those who attended the happy preliminaries and then the wedding photos follow. Family reunions and summer vacations are up next. These are just a smattering of the great occasions now unfolding.

As we turn to the church, we too are preparing for a number of great occasions in this season. Easter ends on the high note of the the Ascension of Christ, as Jesus leaves earth to reign on high, and in leaving commissions all of his followers to go and make disciples of every nation and instructing those disciples in all that he has already taught. But Ascension is a preliminary to what comes next: the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church on Pentecost. With the arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, there is a completeness in our view of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Consequently, we pause on the Sunday following Pentecost to celebrate the three-in-one Divine Presence – the Trinity.

As great as these occasions are there isn't as much buzz as there is for the secular occasions mentioned in the first paragraph. Let's challenge ourselves to find ways to mention to one another and those beyond the church these great occasions that we are observing and why they are important to us. Take a selfie in church and post it on Facebook, Instagram, and Snap Chat. Drop a note to a friend and mention these services that you have attended. Bring these occasions up in conversation when someone asks, "What have you been up to lately?"

Let's get our party spirit on and revel in the amazing God who gives us so many occasions to celebrate!



Serving Christ with you ,

*Pastor Patricia*

### MAY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

**May 6** Baptism

**May 13** Ascension Sunday, Communion Sunday, Festival of the Christian Home

**May 20** Pentecost—wear Red, Yellow or Orange to celebrate the Holy Spirit!!!

**May 27** Trinity Sunday

**DK MATCHING CHALLENGE**

**\$100,000 GOAL**

Emora & Nancy Brannan  
 Betsy Fisk  
 Jack & Marlene Olaughlin  
 Joyce Pollard  
 John Strawbridge  
 Kathryn Vitarelli &  
 Gregory Coates  
 Linda Webb



**\$52,951**

**Dorothy Krug  
 Matching Challenge**

**GREETERS**

**May 6**

Cathy Dryden & Dean Uhler

**May 13**

Jessica Burton & Walter Williams

**May 20**

Abedoh & Enos family

**May 27**

Aimee & Ken Delaney

**TOUR GUIDES**

**May 6** Carol Curtis

**May 13** Eleanor Packard

**May 20** Linda Webb

**May 27** Lee Enos

**LECTIONARY READINGS**

**May 6**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98 (UMH 818)

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

**May 13**

*Ascension Sunday*

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 (UMH 781)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98 (UMH 818)

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

**May 20**

*Day of Pentecost*

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35 (UMH 826)

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**May 27**

*Trinity Sunday*

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29 (UMH 761)

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17



**CHURCH WORK DAYS**

**Saturday, May 5 - 9 AM - 12 PM**

Lovely Lane UMC

**Saturday, June 2 - 9 AM - 12 PM**

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

**RESTORATION GIFTS**

Lyndsey Beaver

Max Brauer

David & Alison Nohara

Rev. Carl Peterson

Willis United Methodist Church

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

May 6

**In Honor of the Baptism of  
 Jackson Robert Spurling**

May 13

**In Honor of All Mothers,  
 By Lenore Baier & Julia Henslee**



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 234th Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference will meet from May 30th to June 1st at the Waterfront Marriott in Baltimore. Business sessions will approve the budget, provide updates on the programmatic work of making disciples and growing in faith, and outline new opportunities and organizational strategies. In the business of the conference there will also be a report from the Commission on the Way Forward regarding plans for how we address the issues around human sexuality, and there will be a number of resolutions to address other issues in our life as United Methodists. Thursday night's ordinations service will send out new servants to fill the calling of deaconess, deacon & elder. Friday will bring both a service of remembrance for those members of the Annual Conference who have entered their eternal rest and a service of appointments for those moving into a new place of service as of July 1st.

Please be in prayer for our Bishop and for the work of the laity & clergy of the Annual Conference as we conduct this important work.

---

## OPEN MINDS

---

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

“The Lord be with you.”

If you're a church-goer, chances are that your inner voice just replied, “And also with you.” It's a reflex action. Call it a tradition, a habit, or a ritual. But there's comfort in it.

And like many of our customs, just when we think we know something well – we find a different way of looking at it that makes us think anew. For Lay Leaders, like myself, and for Pastors, we get to have a different perspective on “The Lord be with you.” In the congregation, you have one person say it to you, and you offer, “And also with you,” to that person in return. But for the worship leader... the prayer leader... or the class leader... you ask it once, and then a crowd of people say it back to you. It is truly a special moment that leaders get to enjoy; to have a whole room full of people wish God's blessing upon you.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

This verse from the book of Matthew (7:7) seems like the simplest and least complicated lesson in the bible. It is even surprisingly selfish in its implication. It seems to encourage us to look after ourselves, and to expect to be given what we want. But as we continuously learn, these simple and common things can surprise us.

As we move into the time following Easter, it is a good time to look at this verse. Because even after hearing the Easter lesson over and over these last couple months, chances are we are still missing the point. We are still trying to earn heaven. We still try to justify ourselves. We still don't realize these things have been done and accomplished. On the cross, Christ said, “It is finished.” Many take this to mean his life. But the larger meaning is that the miracle of salvation through Grace is finished. We are forgiven. God is with us and we are with God.

Only one thing remains, and it is the hard part: We must ask. We must seek. We must knock. It seems so little for God to require. Salvation is given, but we still have to want it. That means humbling ourselves enough to admit we need it, and that we cannot get it on our own. We must ask for Christ's help. We must be accepting.

Matthew 7:7 actually means the opposite of being selfish. It means we must not stick with our own way, but go to God and accept what He offers.

“The Lord be with you.”

At the beginning of the Lenten season – on Ash Wednesday – I had an epiphany. One of the moments when the familiar was suddenly infused with new meaning and understanding. As the congregation received ashes, I began to look at the crosses on the foreheads of those around me. I noticed slight differences in each hand-applied mark. And I wondered what the cross on my own head looked like. And I realized that I couldn't see it... but everyone else could. Each of us had a clear view of each others' crosses, but none of us could see our own.

“And also with you.”

And I realized in a new way, that this is the message of the cross and of Easter. That seeking God and asking for salvation is not a solitary or selfish thing. That only by reaching out to each other can we see God within us. We can only know our own divinity by offering it to others, and accepting theirs in return.

Like the loaves and fishes, it is a gift that multiplies. Send out a little, and it creates much.

As we go forward from Easter, set your path to seeing God in others. Tell them the good news that God is with them. And you may find that a crowd of witnesses is telling you the same.

Peace,  
*John Strawbridge,*

LAY LEADER

---

## ARTS IN SACRED SPACES TRAINING

We will be hosting the Arts in Sacred Places Training in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, **May 8th** and Wednesday, **May 9th**. The Arts in Sacred Places program was designed to facilitate long-term, mutually beneficial space-sharing relationships between artists, arts organizations and houses of worship with space to share. This training will include re-envisioning space for new uses, budget and legal assistance, matchmaking and shared space agreements for 10-15 congregations. It is part of Lovely Lane's effort to continue to be a resource for our community. A special thank you to our Finance Committee Co-Chair, Jackie Noller, for spearheading this effort, and to the volunteers that will be covering the office during the training.

**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  
RoC Youth Basketball & Evangelism - Gym, 10 AM

### Thursday, May 3

Tabernacle UMC Tour - Sanctuary, 3 PM

### Saturday, May 5

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

### Sunday, May 6

Baptism - Sanctuary, 11 AM  
Trinity UMC Tour - Sanctuary, 12 PM

### Tuesday, May 8

Arts in Sacred Places Training - LL Hall, 9 AM

### Wednesday, May 9

Arts in Sacred Places Training - LL Hall, 9 AM

### Saturday, May 12

Buck-I-Serv Ohio State University Overnight Departs  
Shepherdstown UMC Tour - Sanctuary, 10 AM  
UMC of Mantua Tour - Sanctuary, 11 AM

### Monday, May 14 - Friday, May 18

BLS Spring Show Rehearsals & Performances - LL Hall, 7 AM

### Sunday, May 20

Church Council Meeting - LL Hall, 12:30 PM

### Thursday, May 24

Tennessee Clergy Tour - Sanctuary, 1 PM

### Wednesday, May 30 - Friday, June 1

Baltimore Washington Conference Annual Conference

### Saturday, June 2

Church Work Day - Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 9 AM

