

# THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

OPEN HEARTS

October 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. Debbie Scott  
revdeb8@aol.com  
301-641-4601

LAY LEADER  
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST  
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA  
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

SEXTON  
Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Lena Leone



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: *A New Day*

Many of you were in worship Sept. 23rd while our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett, preached a very powerful sermon titled, "Who Sent You?" We were blessed by her words and heart felt sermon. She was moved by the many cards that you wrote to thank her for her presence and support of Lovely Lane UMC.

After worship Rev. Duckett stayed for conversation with all who wanted to be a part of looking at the mission and vision of our church and how it fits into the vision of the Baltimore Metropolitan District of the Baltimore Washington Conference. Rev. Duckett shared her thoughts and then listened as our congregation shared with her. We talked about all that is happening and in the works at our church, from the artist using the chapel for a visual display for the next several months, to the possibility of a Montessori School using an upper floor classroom. Jackie Noller shared about the Dorothy Krug matching grant and the work of the Renovation Task force. Duncan Hodge talked about many of our building challenges, from leaks in the roof to a failed organ. There was a wonderful give and take as ideas and thoughts built upon each other.

We closed by asking everyone to share a word or sentence to describe how they were feeling about Lovely Lane UMC at this moment in time. . . . optimistic, encouraged, excited, focused energy, hopeful. What an incredible spirit in our midst. The words to one of my favorite hymns came to mind:

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*  
Chorus

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,  
When we shall leave this place.*

God is with us as we explore the many possibilities for ministries on our block, in the neighborhood, in our district, conference and the world. I hope you will each be a part of where God is calling and sending us as a faith community.



Grace & Peace,  
Rev. Deb



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

**October 7**  
In Honor of Jack O’Laughlin

**October 14**  
In Honor of Sarah Scribner



**GREETERS**

**October 7**  
Elizabeth Brannan

**October 14**  
Susan Preston & Craig Smith

**October 21**  
Jackie Noller & Betsy Fisk

**October 28**  
Dennis & Angie Ferguson

**LECTIONARY READINGS**

**October 7**  
20th Sunday After Pentecost  
Job 1:1; 2:1-10  
Psalm 26/Psalm 25 (UMH 756)  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

**October 14**  
21st Sunday After Pentecost  
Job 23: 1-9, 16-17  
Psalm 22:1-15 (UMH 752)  
Hebrews 4:12-16

**October 21**  
22nd Sunday After Pentecost  
Job 38:1-7 (34-41)  
Psalm 104:1-9,24,35 (UMH 826)  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

**October 28**  
23rd Sunday After Pentecost  
Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) (UMH 769)  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52



**LITURGISTS**

**October 7**  
Carol Curtis  
**October 14**  
Eleanor Packard  
**October 21**  
Dan Bailey  
**October 28**  
Laura Gamble

**TOUR GUIDES**

**October 7**  
Carol Curtis  
**October 14**  
Linda Webb  
**October 21**  
Eleanor Packard  
**October 28**  
Lee Enos

**DOROTHY KRUG MATCHING CHALLENGE**

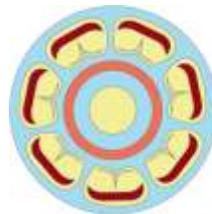
The campaign has three months to go. September has lifted the commitments to date to over 77% of total. We CAN match 100% of Dorothy’s generous challenge because each of you is doing his and her part to help with initial and repeat contributions. We have grant applications in the pipeline with no guarantee of award, although we are cautiously optimistic.

But, you—the members of friends of Lovely Lane Methodist Church—have stepped up to make this goal a much closer reality!

Thank you so very much for your commitments to date.

**\$77,356**

- |                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Susan Allenback | Sally Knapp              |
| Ruth Cramblet   | David LeKites            |
| Carol Curtis    | Elizabeth Lingg          |
| Cathy Dryden    | Jack & Marlene Olaughlin |
| Carolyn Harnick | Joyce Pollard            |
| Charles Kilmon  | Michael Rouse            |



**CALLING ALL LOVELY LANE  
TOUR GUIDES & FRIENDS**

Doors Open Baltimore will take place on Saturday, October 6th. Among other sites, it is a unique opportunity for us to showcase the architecture of Lovely Lane to our community. We need volunteers to conduct tours from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please let us know if you are available to help, this will be in place of the Church Work Day.

**Doors Open: Saturday, October 6th 10 AM - 4 PM**

**CHAPEL EXHIBITION OPENING**

Proficiencies for Living in Ruins is a large scale, site specific installation by Baltimore-based fiber artist, Melissa Webb. You are invited to the opening of this Chapel sculpture exhibition on Friday, Oct. 5th from 7 - 10 PM. Lovely Lane will be sponsoring the reception for Melissa Webb and her art work. All are welcome!

**Exhibit Run: Friday, October 5 - Saturday, December 8**  
**Open viewing hours: Saturdays & Sundays, 12 - 4 PM**

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

Like most people, I have over the years accumulated a variety of souvenirs and tchotchkes on my desk and bookshelves that draw a kind of connect-the-dots picture of my life, my interests and my travels. And nestled in among figures of Big Ben, an Egyptian mummy, a Saturn 5 rocket and Snoopy is a curious effigy; Plastic Jesus.

Plastic Jesus is about five inches high and has posable arms so you can make him look relaxed or excited. And strangely, he's got little wheels where his feet should be under his long white robe. And when you pull him back the wheels wind up... let him go and he goes scooting along the shelf. I can't decide if Plastic Jesus is disrespectful or not. Certainly, it is a ridiculous graven image with the wheels and all. But he is otherwise realistically and respectfully rendered. I'd be tempted to write it off as sacrilege, but it was given to me by someone who knew I was active in church, and she was sure I would love it. Can something be blasphemous if it was given in appreciation?

I think intent matters. I don't think it is enough – surely we must act out our faith – but we are imperfect beings and God must know that sometimes we do the wrong thing for the right reason, and the right thing for the wrong reason.

Even the Bible contains many things which seem contradictory – unless you consider the intent. Exodus 20:12 says, “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” Yet Luke 14:26 quotes Jesus; “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.” If you are stickler for rules, and if you take things out of context, it seems you are

“damned if you do and damned if you don't.” But God does not want us to be robots following a set of instructions. He wants us to think about our choices and where they come from. In the above verses, both place great value on family and home, and both verses urge the listener to recognize them as gifts from God. The second goes further to remind us that discipleship is costly, and we must be prepared to give back to God all that He has given us.

How easy it would be if we could just follow all the rules, check all the boxes, and get into Heaven. But in another great Biblical contradiction Christ both simplified things and made things infinitely more complicated. Instead of ten rules, He gave us one: “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12). So instead of “Thou shall” or “Thou shall not” Jesus asks us to make a choice based on our intention. Even more, he asks us to consider the intentions of others and to create a subjunctive relationship between the two. Instead of being judged for what we have done, Jesus asks us to make judgements based on what may happen next.

Whether Plastic Jesus is profane or profound for me depends on the intent of the giver, which in this case was sincere. And maybe it seems a silly thing, to think so much about a toy. But as we chose our way forward, we must know that rules matter less than intent. That God wants us to make choices not because they are carved in stone, but because they are etched in our hearts.

**Peace,**  
*John Strawbridge,*  
**LAY LEADER**



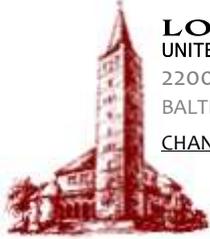
## CONVERSATION TO EXPLORE BECOMING A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

At the Church Council meeting Sept. 16th, the Council, unanimously approved a motion made by Dr. Emora Brannan, to explore becoming a Reconciling Congregation, which supports the full inclusion of all persons in the Church regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Before making this decision, all agreed there was a need for conversation to discuss this proposed decision. By consensus, the Council would prefer this decision to be made before our Church Conference on Nov. 18th (Old Otterbein UMC, 2 PM).

I would like to invite you to a series of conversations for the next four Sundays, Sept. 30th - Oct. 21st, from 9:45am-10:45am, in the Pastor's Office to understand what this would look like for Lovely Lane UMC. I'd like our first time together to focus on "What It Does & Doesn't Mean to be a Reconciling Congregation". This will help us as we develop other topics for this conversation. Please let me know if you have questions.

*Rev. Debbie Scott*  
**301-641-4601**

**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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**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

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

### Every Wednesday

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

### Every Thursday

Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry - LL Hall, 6 PM

### Every Saturday

BLS Martial Arts - LL Hall, 8 AM

### Sunday, September 30

Conversation: Becoming a Reconciling Congregation  
- Pastor's Office, 9:45 AM

### Wednesday, October 3

BLS Themed Kick Off Assembly - Lovely Lane Hall, 10 AM

### Friday, October 5

Baltimore Applique Society Historic Quilt Viewing -  
Lovely Lane Hall, 12 PM  
Howard County Community College Tour - 1:30 PM  
Wedding - Sanctuary, 4 PM  
Sculpture Exhibition Opening Reception - Chapel, 7 - 10 PM

### Saturday, October 6

Church Volunteer Day: Doors Open Baltimore - 10 AM - 4 PM

### Sunday, October 7

Conversation: Becoming a Reconciling Congregation  
- Pastor's Office, 9:45 AM  
World Communion Sunday

### Wednesday, October 10

Mosaic Crab Feast - Lovely Lane Hall, 9 AM  
Finance Committee Meeting - Pastor's Office, 6 PM

### Sunday, October 14

Conversation: Becoming a Reconciling Congregation  
- Pastor's Office, 9:45 AM

### Tuesday, October 16

Building Renovation Task Force Meeting -  
Pastor's Study, 6:30 PM

### Saturday, October 20

Union Memorial UMC Tour, 10 AM

### Sunday, October 21

Conversation: Becoming a Reconciling Congregation  
- Pastor's Office, 9:45 AM  
Church Council Meeting - Lovely Lane Hall, 12:30 PM

### Tuesday, October 23

Charles Village Community Benefits District Election Meeting  
- Lovely Lane Hall, 6:30 PM

### Wednesday, October 24

Trustees Meeting - Pastor's Study, 7 PM

### SAVE THE DATE

### Sunday, November 4

Homecoming Sunday