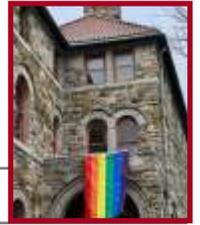


THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

November 2020



Lovely Lane United Methodist Church

MOTHER CHURCH OF
AMERICAN METHODISM



2200 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore MD 21218-5805

Worship Online 11:00 AM

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
10 AM — 4 PM

Phone
410-889-1512

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ORGANIST
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

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Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Shanna Webb



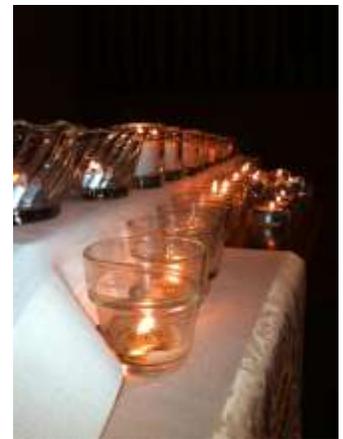
From the Pastor's Desk: All Saints Day

The first Sunday of November is traditionally celebrated in the church as All Saint's Day when we remember those who have gone on to glory this past year. Lovely Lane has certainly lost two saints, Delores Shaw, our church secretary for fifty years, and 99-year-old Dorothy Krug, whose stewardship to our church has few rivals. When we think of all those lost this year: to Covid-19, to police violence, to rampant forest fires, to multiple hurricanes...we are overwhelmed.

This poem is stunning, and I just wanted to share it. It is used in the Reform Jewish liturgy, as an optional reading, before Kaddish (a Jewish prayer recited in the daily ritual of the synagogue and by mourners at public services after the death of a close relative). David Joyce writes, "Every once in a while, a poem or song is so well constructed, that it so clearly conveys the authors meaning and is so precisely expressive that it becomes something of an anthem. The poem below, Epitaph, was written by Merrit Malloy and, as one of those poems, has become a staple of funeral and memorial services...for good reason."

Epitaph - By Merrit Malloy

When I die give what's left of me away
to children and old men that wait to die.
And if you need to cry,
cry for your brother walking the street beside you.
And when you need me, put your arms around anyone
and give them what you need to give to me.
I want to leave you something,
something better than words or sounds.
Look for me in the people I've known or loved,
and if you cannot give me away,
at least let me live on in your eyes and not your mind.
You can love me most by letting hands touch hands,
By letting bodies touch bodies,
And by letting go of children that need to be free.
Love doesn't die, people do.
So, when all that's left of me is love,
give me away.



Prayer for This Season:

We give You thanks, O God, for all the saints that have gone before us.
We give You thanks for our ancestors who have shown us by their lives what it is to be faithful.
We give You thanks for our loved ones who have taught us Your love in ways close to our heart.
We mourn those whose lives were cut short, especially due to this pandemic.
We miss those who were dear to us.
We grieve the unexpected losses in our lives.
We give You thanks, O God, for the saints who are now at home with You, and we know that through Your love, we have the promise of eternal life. Amen.

Blessings, Rev. Deb

From the Lay Leader...

You are praying wrong.

Do you ever worry about that? Do you ever worry that, somehow, your prayers are not good enough, or that you're not doing it right? Do you ever hope that the pastor won't call on you to pray out loud, in front of everyone? If you ever want to see a chatty group grow silent, just ask someone to pray for the group out loud. Suddenly everyone gets quiet, and takes a sudden interest in the floor.

I go to a lot of church meetings, and I can tell you that even when I'm in a meeting with church leaders, and the Bishop asks someone to pray; there is a lot of nervous laughter and clergy getting that downcast look that says, "Don't call on me."

So instead of giving you encouragement and telling you not to be afraid, I'm going to make you confront that fear and - with my tongue a little bit in my cheek - I'm going to tell you the three things that you are doing wrong when you pray.

Mistake #1; You're being too formal. OK, this one's not your fault. If you learned to pray by going to church, then you've learned a lot of bad habits. Worship service prayers tend to be as much for the listener as they are for God. They are full of things like, "And walk ever with me that I may know your steadfast comfort..." I mean, who talks that way? No one, that's who.

These prayers are like our best suits and gowns; we put them on for formal occasions. But when it comes to personal time - that one-on-one time you have with God - it's OK if you wear jeans and a t-shirt (metaphorically speaking). Getting to have that personal a relationship with God is too special to waste. Be yourself.

Mistake #2; You're trying to do it all. There is so much to pray for. You have friends who need God. You've got the prayer list from church. You've got your family concerns. Maybe even a few things for yourself. Then there's that sad story you heard about on the news... and poverty... and hurricanes. It's all too much. You come away from your nightly prayers exhausted... and kinda depressed. Maybe you even put off prayer time because it's just too much work.

Prayer isn't a responsibility. It's a benefit. God already knows what's going on, and who is in need. It's not like God's going to ignore your friend's sprained ankle because you forgot to pray for it. Your prayers don't have to be everything every time. It's

OK to pray for one thing tonight, and focus on something else tomorrow. Because prayer isn't about informing God. It's your chance to take what is on your mind and give it to someone who can handle it. Don't take the world on your own shoulders. Let prayer be your relief.

Mistake #3; You're asking too many questions. Yeah, you need to ask for God's intercession where needed. But that's not all you need to do. Prayer is a dialogue. You need to listen for what God is telling you.

Don't just ask God... Tell God. Tell God that you are going to accept the gift of forgiveness that God's already given. Tell God what you're going follow the Golden Rule. Tell God that you already know that he's there with you all the way. And best of all, tell God that you love him.

But why listen to me? Who am I to tell you what you're doing wrong? Well, you see, my first draft of this column was "I am praying wrong." Everywhere you see the word "you" substitute the word "I" and you'll see what the first draft looked like. But I figured; you don't want to read about me. So I made it all about you.

That's my prayer - that you'll learn from my mistakes.

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER



A bit of Sabbath leave for Rev. Deb

RESTORATION AND NATIONAL FUND FOR SACRED PLACES (NFSP) GIVING

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL: Our goal is to double the church's "use of building" revenues from hosting more groups in our National Historic Register building upgraded with 21st-century amenities. To be certain we can keep Lovely Lane Church's doors open to serve the congregation, we need to recruit more members and more non-church groups to use our building.

COVID-19 restrictions have created a dramatic decline in 2020 in our "use of building" revenues. This decline has increased our understanding of the importance of sharing our space with other neighborhood users.

We are grateful to church leaders whose foresight to commit to this long term \$2.6 million capital campaign to upgrade our building has positioned the church well. When these COVID-19 restrictions are behind us, community gathering facilities that open their doors to groups with reconfigured needs for space will be in demand and valuable to the community.

NEW FUNDING: We received word in October that the France-Merrick Foundation (FMF) will commit the maximum annual capital grant award of \$150,000 to Lovely Lane for our project. We are extremely grateful for this renewed support from FMF, a major contributor to help complete our sanctuary restoration project in 2003.

The FMF funding commitment means two things: 1) we have exceeded—in one year--the \$500,000 threshold to qualify for the full NFSP grant award and 2) any unspent funds to complete the estimated \$765,000 costs of the **ramp, new restrooms and Chapel window restoration** will be allocated to other components of the project, including the air conditioning of Fellowship Hall.

Due to scheduling logistics, the final NFSP grant award decision has been delayed but will be made official by November 1st. We are confident that we have met the requirements to receive the full \$250,000 NFSP capital grant award. Stay tuned!

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING: Nearly 16% (\$140,000+) of project funding to date comes from current and past members of the Lovely Lane congregation. These capital campaign gifts have been *in addition to* congregational tithing, which is up 4% in 2020 over 2019.

These church member gifts indicate a deep commitment for our church's future in the face of income declines due to the pandemic in 2020. Thank you to all members who have made a tax-deductible contribution over this past year to the church's future.

Here is the listing of funding support we have received since we published a listing in the October 2020 Tower edition:

France Merrick Foundation
Eleanor Packard

You can help us realize the goals of the NFSP-launched project to restore and rehabilitate our beautiful building by sending a PayPal payment or a check payable to "Lovely Lane" (please indicate "Building Project" on memo line), addressed to Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, 2200 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218.

For additional information about the building project, please email lovelylanecenter@gmail.com or call the church at 410-889-1512.

THE FAITH WE SING

October was Pastor Appreciation Month. Like everything this year, we couldn't observe in any "usual" way. So Lovely Lane has decided to show our appreciation to Pastor Deb by... giving ourselves a gift!

In many of our services, Rev. Deb has gone to "The Faith We Sing" for hymns that expressed a particular message or emotion in support of her message. "The Faith We Sing" is a collection of 248 songs intended to supplement (not replace) our 1989 hymnals. It includes many new songs, but also some older songs that didn't make it in the standard hymnal.

But it is difficult for a pastor to take advantage of this expanded selection when we haven't had the books in the sanctuary for the congregation to sing from. So this past month, Nany Brannan talked with Cokesbury and got Lovely Lane a special rate of only \$10.00 per book (including shipping!). And we want to give everyone a chance to donate a book to bless our sanctuary. Enclosed with this newsletter is an order form. You may use this form to sponsor one or more copies of "The Faith We Sing" for the sanctuary. Additionally, you may dedicate your gift "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" someone special to you.



Committal Service for Dorothy Krug on October 21, 2020

Poinsettias and Books for 2020

Once more the Lovely Lane altar will be decorated with the traditional Christmas poinsettias. The cost of the plant will be \$9.00. Donations of less than the cost of a single plant are also welcome, as several of these together will make it possible to purchase additional plants to beautify the Church. The cost, like any other gift to the Church, is fully tax-deductible.

Memorial and Honorary listings will be printed in both the Christmas bulletin and the January newsletter. The poinsettias decorate the altar on Sundays, December 13 & 20, Christmas Eve & Christmas. We invite you to place your order using this form, by calling the church office (410-889-1512) or sending an e-mail to LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com.

To meet the florist schedule and publication deadlines, please have all requests to the church office by:
Thursday, December 10th.

Poinsettias for the Lovely Lane Christmas Altar

I would like to donate _____ poinsettias @ \$9 per plant.

I would like to contribute \$ _____ toward the purchase of additional plants.

In Honor Memory of

In Honor Memory of

Signed: _____ Phone: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____



“The Faith We Sing” Books for the Sanctuary

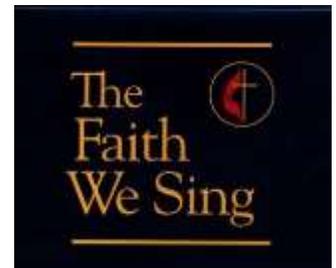
I would like to donate _____ “The Faith We Sing” @ \$10 per book.

I would like to contribute \$ _____ toward the purchase of additional books.

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Signed: _____ Phone: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

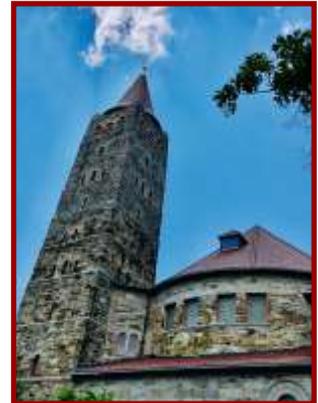


OUR MISSION: To celebrate the vision of God's Good News in Jesus Christ in liturgy, learning, and life, through the revitalization of our congregation, the restoration of our building, and the strengthening of our traditions, while recognizing our unique presence and mission in Baltimore City.



LOVELY LANE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2200 ST. PAUL STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21218-5805
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