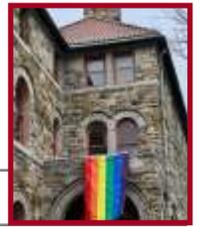


# THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 6

February 2021



## 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

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  
Shanna Webb



## From the Pastor's Desk: A Unique Historic Day



What a day this has been. Like many of you, I have watched history as we inaugurated the first woman, a person of color, as our Vice President. Oh Happy Day, but the day was so much more. It really began with the incredible moments at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial last night

when, in a simple ritual, 400,000 lives that have been lost to Covid-19 were honored. I wrote these words as my tears flowed: “the shell has been cracked open for our collective grief.”

I don't know about you, but I realized that I have been holding my breath for almost four years. Not literally, but that tension we hold with-

in ourselves when we are waiting for the other shoe to drop. I'm exhausted, yet I live in hope, in possibility. Seeing our elected leaders begin their day in worship gave me a sense of peace. The political divide was bridged in moments of worship.

We have been reeling from the sights and sounds of January 6th, an attack on our Nation's Capitol. We cannot unsee the images of our brothers and sisters desecrating symbols of our democracy. We cannot understand how so many have swallowed and perpetuated the lies around the election of our current president, Joseph Biden. My tears flowed that day, and they flowed today.

In this dark moment in our country, we all have work to do. The problems on display these last four years are not new; they have only been magnified. But I have hope, do you?



Our new president said in his address many things that I resonate with, especially “Democracy has prevailed.” I loved lady Gaga sing, in her classically trained voice, the National Anthem. I loved young poet Amanda Gorman share her powerful poem, “The Hill We Climb.” It was a great day ending with a powerful, diverse program, including inspirational words from three former presidents. Covid-19

restrictions created a new opportunity for all of us to be a witness to an expertly produced program. The incredible fireworks display at the end was just the icing on the cake.

This has been a unique historic day. The crowds were not allowed to gather in our Nation's Capital as we worried about further violence. Thank God it was a peaceful day, a peaceful transition of power. Monday, 1/18, the Washington Post ran a blog by Michael Ruane. It was titled, “Lincoln's first inauguration was met with threats of kidnapping, killing.” He ends by quoting from that first inaugural address by Lincoln, and I'd like to do the same.



*“Fellow-Citizens of the United States,” he began, stressing the word “united. ”A disruption of the Federal Union, heretofore only menaced, is now formidably attempted,” he said. “I hold that ... the Union of these States is perpetual.”*

*“In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war,” he said. “You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect, and defend it.’ ”*

*“We must not be enemies,” he said.*

*“Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature”.*

May we learn from history and not repeat it. Blessings, Rev. Debbie Scott

## Please Excuse Our Dust

We have begun work on the four new bathrooms on the church's first floor—two in the back office, Rm 10, and the pantry. Please excuse our dust. Big thanks to all our donors that have made this moment possible.

Back Office Before



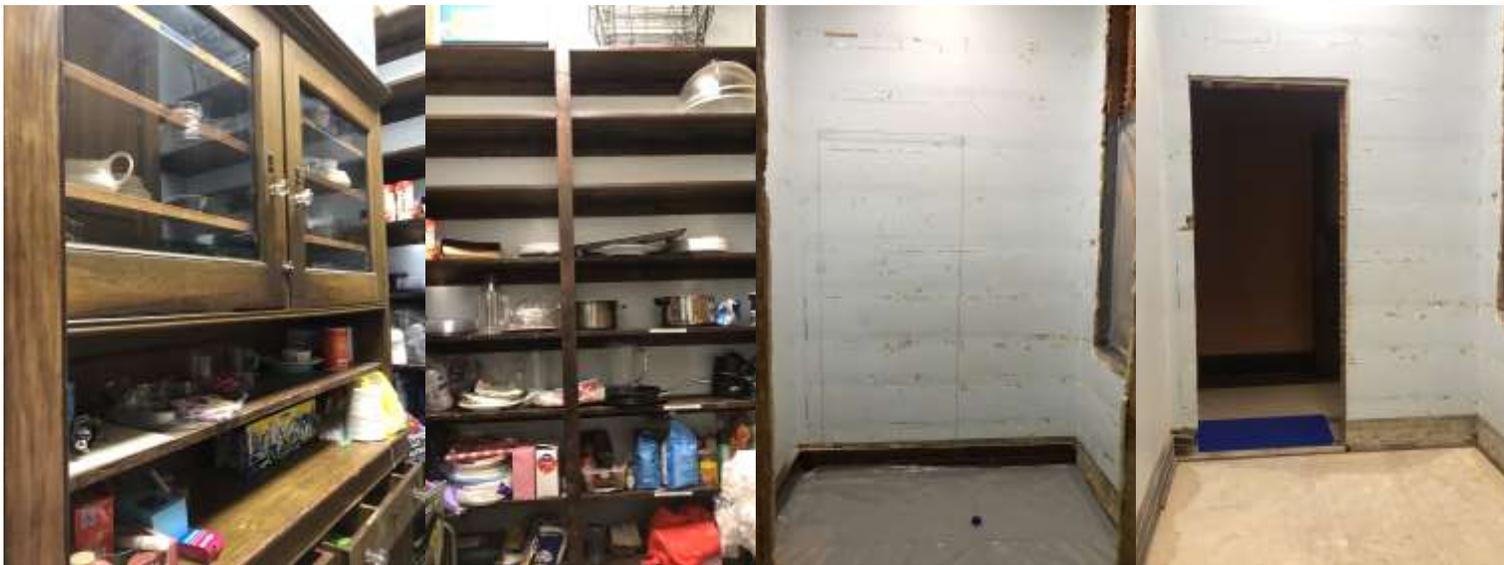
Back Office After



Rm. 10 Before and After



Pantry Before and After



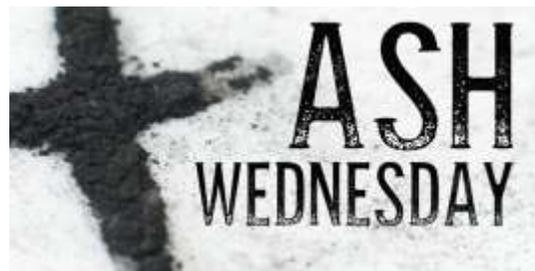
## 2020 Financial Update

As we all know, 2020 was a challenging year for many, including our church. No pastor or congregation is prepared to close our doors in response to a worldwide pandemic. Your faithfulness and continued stewardship allowed us to finish 2020 in the black and to pay our staff without interruption as well as pay our Mission Shares (apportionments) at 100%(\$40,000), not to mention all our bills which kept coming.

Many churches were not able to fair so well. Our conference alone lost 1.7 million in revenue from churches that could not pay their Mission Shares.

We have been blessed by not only your giving but by being recipients of the Federal PPP Program (close to \$30,000) and a Maryland Small Business Grant (\$10,000). Thanks to John Strawbridge, we have completed the paperwork for the next round of PPP grants in the same amount. Pray that we will be successful for these grants have helped maintain our finances as we have lost a tremendous amount of revenue with the building closed from Building Use (close to \$50,000).

2021 is a new year. With vaccines produced and now being received (we wish on a larger and faster scale), perhaps we will be able to gather in person once again for worship and fellowship in the not too distant future. We all are grateful for your patience, putting safety first. I pray for my colleagues who are having to battle their congregations who want to open prematurely. Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength! Thank you again for your faithfulness and stewardship.



Lent 2021 begins February 17th with Ash Wednesday. We will gather for a zoom worship service at 7:00 pm. An invitation will be sent out; please join us.

Lenten Study for six weeks starting February 17th, would you be interested? Please let Rev. Deb know asap (revdeb8@aol.com). We are thinking of using Adam Hamilton's words of Life. I'm also going to take a look at Amy Jill Levine's Entering the Passion of Jesus.

## *From the Lay Leader...*

“Thank you for calling Old Testament Heaven. Due to unusually high call volume, your wait may be longer than usual.

“Make your selection from one of the following options. Please listen closely as many of our options have changed.

“For beseeching, press one. For petitions, press two. For confessions, press three. For praises, press four. For healing, press five. For smiting, press six. To make a sacrifice, press seven. To speak to a representative, press zero.”

“0”

“We’re sorry, all of our representatives are busy helping other callers at this time. Your call is important to us. Please stay on the line. For faster service, please have two young turtledoves ready when we come on the line. To hear our directory, press one.”

“1”

“For Michael, press one. For Raphael, press two. For Gabriel, press three. For Uriel, press four. For Saraqael, press five. For Raguel, press six. For Remiel, press seven.”

“0”

“We’re sorry, you have made an invalid selection. Please try again.”

“Representative.”

“To hear our options again, press-“

“What is the extension for God?”

“For Michael, press one. For Raphael, press-“

“I just want to talk to God...”

“To hear these options again, press the pound key. To return to the main menu-“

[click]

“Hello, you have reached New Testament Heaven.”

“Mmmm, mmm...”

“How can I help you?”

“Oh – I thought you were a recording.”

“No, I’m here. How can I help?”

“Oh, ok. You caught me off guard. I didn’t expect to get someone so quickly. I want to talk to someone in charge.”

“This is Jesus, what can I do for you.”

“Yes, can I talk to Jesus? That would be great.”

“This is Jesus. What can I do for you?”

“You mean – *you are* Jesus?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

“Wow, ok. I didn’t know you answered directly. I thought maybe I’d get one of your saints.”

“That’s Old Testament Heaven. In New Testament Heaven, I always answer. Twenty-four hours a day. Seven days a week.”

“Wow. Ok... umm...”

“Don’t be nervous. Just tell me what you need.”

“O, Thou mighty savior, I beseech thee to-“

“How about you just tell me in your own words.”

“Oh, right. Ok. I’m sorry. I know you’re busy, what with the whole universe and all.”

“I’m in no rush. Take all the time you need. Talk to me.”

“Well, it’s nothing big. I’m not asking for world peace or anything.”

“That’s too bad. I wish more people would ask for that.”

“What? Oh, yeah. Um... Now that I’m talking to you, I feel a little silly asking.”

“That’s alright. There’s nothing you can’t ask me. My answer isn’t always the one you want to hear, but you can ask me anything.”

“That’s just it. I don’t really want anything. I mean, I don’t need anything in particular...”

“Then what can I do for you?”

“I just... I just need to talk.”

“Talk?”

“Yes. I mean sometimes... life... it’s all just too much. You know? I just worry so much. About everything. I’m supposed to be a grown-up. But sometimes, I feel scared. I just don’t know if I can handle all this.”

“I’m glad you called. You’ve come to the right place. Now... tell me everything.”

**Peace,**

*John Strawbridge*

**LAY LEADER**



## RESTORATION AND 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

**2020 BUILDING FUNDS UPDATE:** We now have two building funds—with different purposes--dedicated to showcase our historic Methodist Church building. Balances in and donations to these funds are segregated from the Church Operating Fund.

Since the 1980s, **The Restoration Fund** has held accumulated balances to maintain the structural integrity of our building, including the past Sanctuary restoration. In 2020, this fund received more than \$8,000 in new donations. There were no structural expenditures.

In 2019, we established **The Rehabilitation Fund** to finance a new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Building Project--through grants and new donations--to refurbish and upgrade underused space in our historic building to share with more community groups. In 2020, this fund received over \$450,000 in grants and donations and expensed over \$120,000. Another \$800,000 in financial pledges and grant awards will be paid into this fund in 2021-2022 to help complete financing Phase 1 of rehabilitation work to create **the Lovely Lane Arts & Neighborhood Center**.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS:** When Phase 1 construction of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Building project is fully underway, we will focus on financing and fundraising for Phase 2. This second phase seeks to fully restore the Brannan Chapel and South Tower, refurbish the locker room area, and install performance-quality furnishings (cost estimate of another \$1.4 million). *We continue to encourage contributions to either of our two building funds from all donors to add to our 2019-2020 fundraising success!*

**21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY BUILDING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:** In mid-January 2021, contractors began the installation of 4 new restrooms on the main floor of the church building to provide more modern amenities for church visitors. Contractors will begin exterior construction of the new access ramp from St. Paul Street upon receipt of pending permits. New contracts are under development for the window restoration work in the Brannan Chapel and the balance of Phase 1 architectural work to install air conditioning in Fellowship Hall.

We are planning a “virtual” groundbreaking event to launch this exterior ramp work. **Stay tuned** for further announcements to join this momentous occasion.

**DONOR UPDATE:** The Lovely Lane congregation continues to be grateful for the support received to showcase its 19<sup>th</sup> Century building, built as a centennial monument to the founding of Methodism in the United States in 1784. We have received the following donations since we published a listing in the January 2021 *Tower* edition.

### The Restoration Fund

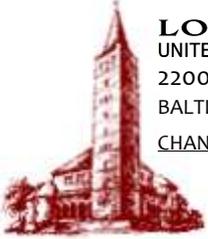
Anonymous Donor  
Barbara Broome IMO Elsie Kaste  
Robert & Shirley Coffman IMO Wilton, Delores and Bobby Shaw  
Betty Clopton  
Carrie Harnick  
Marlene Henderson  
Donald Kann  
L.M. Kaste IMO Elsie Kaste  
Richard Kaste IMO Elsie Kaste  
Daniel Kaste & Betti Bauer-Kaste IMO Elsie Kaste  
Roger Katzenberg IHO/IMO our Friends at Lovely Lane  
Joyce Mershon IMO Elsie Kaste  
Eleanor Packard IMO Jane Knode  
Marie Passow IMO Elsie Kaste

### The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Building Project Fund

Carl Beall & Dorothea B. Lankford, officers of former Stevenson UMC IMO Delores Shaw  
Tad Glenn  
Donna Knott IMO Don David Conklin  
IRA of Jackalyn A. Noller IMO Dorothy Krug  
IRA of David Warshawsky IMO Dorothy Krug and IHO Charles Pang  
IRA of Linda Webb  
Patricia and Robert Welch IMO Dorothy Krug

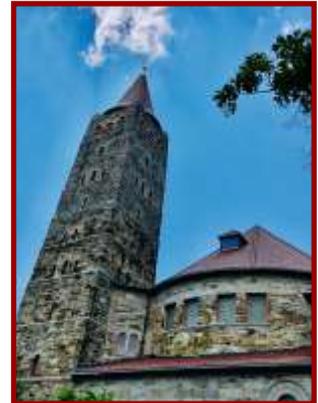
*To make a new donation to either of our Building Funds,  
please send checks with “Restoration” or “21<sup>st</sup> Century Building Project” in memo line  
to **Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, 2200 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218**  
or go to our website to donate online: [www.lovelylane.net/donation](http://www.lovelylane.net/donation).*

**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**  
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