

# THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION



VOLUME 20, ISSUE 10

June 2023

## Lovely Lane United Methodist Church

MOTHER CHURCH OF  
AMERICAN METHODISM



2200 Saint Paul Street  
Baltimore MD 21218-5805

### Worship Online 10:15 AM

Office Hours  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday,  
& Friday  
8:00 AM — 2:00 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

Fatima Black



## From the Pastor's Desk: "SO LONG, FAREWELL"

"So long, farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, goodbye." With those words, the children said good night to the partygoers in the Sound of Music. Today I join them in that refrain as I say goodbye to you as your pastor. It's hard to believe that in two weeks, June 11th, I will be preaching my last sermon after 5 years at Lovely Lane UMC and 43 years as an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church. I've had a hard time putting thoughts to paper as I ponder this moment.

Like a trapeze artist who lets go of one trapeze but hasn't quite grabbed a hold of the next, the transition from ministry to retirement can be at the same time exhilarating and frightening. And I daresay the analogy holds true for a congregation saying goodbye to their pastor and wondering about the future without her. (We are thankful God always provides us a safety net!)

I never imagined that my last pastorate would be at the Mother Church of American Methodism. As a cradle Methodist I have known the historic role of this church and congregation as I was growing up. I just wish my parents had been around long enough to witness this incredible season in my life and ministry. They would have been so proud.

In all my years serving various churches, rural, suburban and now inner city, I have kept many passages of scripture before me, including 1 Peter 5:2 (NIV) *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;*

You know shepherds are assigned to a particular flock. They can look at the flocks of other shepherds and admire them, but when it comes to their own flock, they are ready to do what it takes to protect them, to guide them and to feed them. I have always tried to be a good shepherd.

I've been there for older adults in need of a friend. I've been there in the rooms with those who were breathing their last breath. I've counseled couples who have come to be married. I've answered late night calls from youth who were in trouble. I've sat on the floor with children sharing the stories of Jesus.

When people hear the word pastor, they often think preacher, teacher, counselor, worship leader and speaker. Many do not think of the opportunity to clean toilets, sweep floors, pick up kids, drop off kids, deliver groceries, take seniors to the doctors, buy pizza, iron robes, lead kids' choirs, direct summer camp, babysitting, van driving, line dancing, VBS director and crime buster. As a shepherd I have done all these things and many, many more. Simply because for the kingdom to advance, the jobs needed to be done.

Hopefully, my eagerness to serve has built up congregations and individuals during the span of my ministry. I've been there for some of the most important moments in people's lives and I am grateful for those opportunities. It's been my privilege to love you, to pray for you, to serve you, to encourage you, and to teach you.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Debbie Scott



## *From the Lay Leader...*

If you are a fan of British television... or science fiction... or both... you may be familiar with a long-running series called “Dr. Who.” But even if you’re not a fan of either, it’s an interesting show, in that it has been airing for well over fifty years; since 1963.

We’re all familiar with having our favorite TV show canceled after one or two years. So how do you keep one program going for so long? Part of the answer, lies in the problem. The problem is that no one actor has been willing to stay in the lead role forever, so the writers had to come up a way to replace the lead, without changing what people love about show. So it became part of the story that the title character “regenerates” every so often. He transforms into a new face and new body, but he is still the same person – the same spirit.

In recent years the show has changed with the times, and the character regenerated into a woman, with the role played by a female actor. Later this year, as that actress has announced her retirement, the role will be assumed by another male, but the first person of color to play the role.

But another secret of the show’s success, is that the writers quickly realized that it’s not just the lead actor that audiences watch, but it is the people who travel with him/her. These players have also changed many times over the years. With each change, the show takes on a new dimension, but the plot of saving the world by working together always stays the same.

So why all this talk about some odd foreign TV show? I’m guessing that by now, you’ve begun to see why I’ve been thinking about this show recently.

Like the BBC, *Lovely Lane* also has a long-running show. The players have changed many times. But we have always talked about how the spirit and mission of *Lovely Lane* have never changed. And just as a TV show has a season, we have a season at *Lovely Lane* that is about to come to an end, and a new one set to begin. Our lead – our “Dr.” – has announced her retirement. And a new player is set to step into the role.

The actors who have taken on the role of “Dr. Who” get a lot of attention in the media. And invariably, they talk about the pressure of stepping in to such a well-loved role, and the challenge of hoping the audience will accept them as they bring their own interpretation to the role. Such will be the case here at *Lovely Lane*. Our new pastor will be well aware of

the expectations that he will be stepping into. Will people accept that this new face is still the lead they have tuned in every week to see? Will they accept that he brings his own take on the role, and that it will not be exactly like they are used to?

And, as always, the success of the show will very much depend on the rest of the cast. It will be up to them to carry the show just as much as the featured player.

Over the course of the TV show, there has been much debate about who “the best” actor has been. Some have been very serious, some more light-hearted. Some younger, some more mature. And if you enter into this debate, what you will see is that people tend to think that whoever played the role when they first started watching – they were the best. And you realize the debate is meaningless. There is no “best.” If you want to keep following, you just have to be willing to go with the change. After all, that has been the very key to its success... its ability to keep going year after year... decade after decade.

After Christ’s ascension, there is an episode in the bible that doesn’t get read or preached on often. But soon after Jesus is lifted up, the disciples return home, and select a man named Mattias as the next disciple. After all, they are down to eleven, and need to appoint a twelfth. Mattias was not “the rock,” nor was he the “beloved disciple.” But in his way, he was something more important. He was the disciple who showed that the work could go on with new faces, and new gifts. That the way of Christ was not a one-off, but could be a long-running thing that would outlast any one person; whether that person was the leader or the follower.

Look around at the windows of *Lovely Lane* and you’ll see the proof. Look at the seats in the sanctuary, and you’ll see the proof. There have been many faces. But the spirit is unchanging. Singular, and universal. We have been renewed for another season. Let’s keep saving the world.



Peace,

*John Strawbridge*

**LAY LEADER**

## WORK TO RESTORE, REHABILITATE AND MAINTAIN OUR 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BUILDING

### 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PROJECT UPDATE

1. New security infrastructure in the portico entryways to the sanctuary on both St Paul and 22nd Streets. We wish to recognize committee members Rev. Deb Scott and Mike Rouse for their committed efforts to advance this work by securing recent project approval from the Baltimore City Commission on Historic Architecture and Preservation (CHAP).
2. New exterior signage on St Paul Street. The project vendor reports that sign fabrication will begin soon once final permits are issued.

Other outreach initiatives to help attract new building users (website redesign and grant submission to hire marketing consultant) will be priorities for Rev. Sutton's consideration upon his arrival at Lovely Lane

The 21st Century Committee recognized architect Donald Kann in May with a Fellowship Hall event to present a bronze plaque in recognition of his decades of architectural guidance to Lovely Lane. Since the 1980s his expertise has led to a full restoration of our sanctuary and recent rehabilitation of other parts of the church building to improve the access and amenities offered for all members and visitors.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

LL21CC members continue to cultivate funding opportunities with public agencies and private foundation/ corporate funding sources to add to donations from individuals for these priority components. All interested in supporting this important work should contact [lovelylanecenter@gmail.com](mailto:lovelylanecenter@gmail.com) for details or follow the link given below to make donations.

### BUILDING FUNDS DONOR UPDATE

The Lovely Lane congregation continues to be very grateful for the support received to 1) pursue our ambitious 21<sup>ST</sup> Century Project restoration, rehabilitation and building use goals 2) replenish our escrowed restoration maintenance fund for our 19th 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 May 2023 Tower edition.

#### **The Restoration Fund – to maintain building integrity**

No new donations

#### **The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Building Project Fund – to improve building for greater community use**



Jackalyn A. Noller  
Michael P. Rouse





Donald Kann  
Architecture Celebration

Announcements:

Saturday, June 3rd Monthly Volunteer Work Day at LLUMC from 9am-12pm

Saturday, June 10th A celebration of Deb Scott's many years of ministry in the United Methodist Church from 2-4:00pm in the Sanctuary and the Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall



Rev Deb's ordination in 1980



Rev Deb's first Sunday at Lovely Lane

Sunday, June 11th Worship Service 10:15am followed by lunch and recognition of Rev. Deb Scott's years as pastor of Lovely Lane

Sunday, June 18th Worship Service 10:15am with Benjamin Black as special speaker

Sunday, June 25th Anniversary Sunday 10:15am with John Strawbridge, Lay Leader, as special speaker

Sunday, July 2nd Worship with Rev. Levon Sutton 10:15am as our new pastor followed by a reception to welcome Rev. Sutton and his family



**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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Non-profit  
Organization  
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
*THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!*

*One* step can start  
a journey.  
One song can change  
a moment,  
One smile can start  
a friendship,  
One hug can lift a soul,  
One candle can wipe  
out darkness,  
One life can make a  
difference,  
One word can start  
a prayer.  
One hope will lift a spirit,  
One touch can show  
you care.  
*Be that one today..*



Don't be afraid of  
being DIFFERENT,  
be afraid of being  
the same as everyone else

-Unknown