



Broadway
United Methodist Church



**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE**

Pastor's Paragraphs	1
Vernice's View	2
Kevin's Korner	3
Wednesday Night Potluck	4
Prayer Opportunities	4
WNL Education Opportunities	5
Committee on Nominations and Lay Development	5
Statement of Anti-Racist Intent	6
Constant Contact	7
January Mission Minute	7
Newsletter Deadline	7

The Broadway — January 2010

The Pastor's Paragraphs

It doesn't work because it's true; it's true because it works. ~ William James

*We must die to a life of fear; when we do, we can be resurrected to living life...
~ Broadway Baptismal Liturgy*

We begin the calendar year in the church with two highlights of liturgy: The Epiphany, and The Baptism of Jesus. These two Worship events call us to the same acts for ourselves – to an epiphany of our understanding of who Jesus is; to a re-commitment to the charge, vows, and prayers of Baptism.

When we celebrate the Epiphany, we read the familiar text of the “magi,” – the wise ones from the East who come to kneel before Jesus, to Worship the one they have discerned is the Messiah. It is their recognition of who this baby is that beckons us, too, to discern who Jesus is for us.

What a perfect time to ask the questions of ourselves and our community of faith. Who is Jesus for Broadway – for each of us personally, and for our family of faith? What difference does it make that we gather in the name of that same Jesus when we meet on Sunday mornings? How do our commitments, like those made in Baptism, lead us to action on behalf of Lakeview and beyond?

For me: I learned as a child about a man named Jesus who was “meek and mild,” who was kind, who welcomed children. As I’ve grown in my faith and experience, as I’ve read and re-read scripture, Jesus has become something quite opposite of “meek and mild” – a political figure whose radical insistence on justice upset the power structure of his day. This Jesus – who reached out to those on the margins, who preached that God’s love is bigger than *anything*, whose mere touch healed people in both body and soul – this Jesus reveals more of God than anything else I know. This Jesus, scripture tells us, promises a Spirit to guide us. This Jesus is the one I cling to because, when I do, everything else in my life works better.

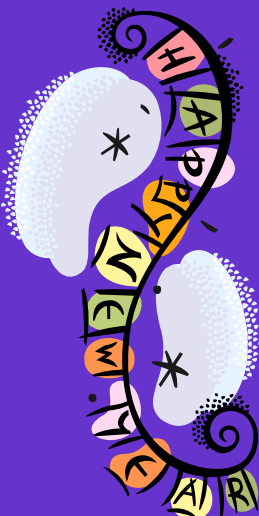
Our Broadway Baptismal Liturgy closes with this prayer: *We pray that we will be on our knees before You with words of thanksgiving and on our feet for You with deeds of love.* It’s my hope that this liturgy will guide us as we begin a new calendar year, as we embark on relationship-building; as we continue to live into our reconciling and anti-racist declarations; as we discern our core values, our mission, our vision for long-range planning, our future structure.

How do we claim what we believe, and how do we live out that belief – that is to say: how will our believing affect our living? How will folks we meet outside of Broadway see *in us* what the magi saw in a baby?

In faith,

Lois+

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



Vernice's View

The Gift of the New Year

I typically wake on New Year's Day, with an emotional mix of dread for things not accomplished and gratitude for a new year and fresh opportunities. Often that new opportunity comes disguised as a New Year's Resolution to lose weight or be more organized or exercise more...or whatever we see as failure from the year before. Though resolutions can be a bit nebulous, they also offer us something to plan for, to anticipate, to work toward. And that is a good thing both in our personal lives and our life together as a faith community.

2009 was a tumultuous time for us as a community. But it was also a time of growth and study and reflection. By the end of December, for many it was a time of excitement and leaning into a more joyous time. That hope and anticipation became our theme for the last quarter of the year.

As I begin this year, with 2009 swirling around me, instead of resolutions, which often times focus on what was not done, I invite us into a time of thanksgiving for all that we have been blessed with.

First I am so very thankful for you, my chosen family, Broadway. I am thankful for my biological family, especially my mother (who will be 98 this month) and my daughter who is leaning with great anticipation towards motherhood. I am thankful for friends who not only support me but challenge me to be more than I think I can be. I'm thankful for people who tell me what I can't do; they provide me impetus and determination to try harder. I'm thankful for a God who never gives up on me; who continues to love me no matter how disconnected I am from her or from the world around me.

To help us all to embrace this thankfulness, we begin the first two weeks of the year with an extended guided meditation during Wednesday night Bible study, using two of my favorite Psalms to help shape our study and reflection.

Psalm 30. *Theme:* A celebration of God's deliverance. Earthly security is often uncertain, but God is always faithful and for that we give thanks.

Psalm 136. *Theme:* The never ending story of God's love. God deserves our praise because God's love never fails and for that we are truly thankful.

The Psalms of praise reflect the fullness of human life for which we were created. We give thanks and praise for the greatness and wonder and beauty all around us. We give thanks and praise for our very existence. We give thanks and praise for the deep movement of God in our hearts and in the world.

Let's begin 2010 in praise and thanksgiving!

Gracious and loving God, throughout this past year you have poured out your abundant blessings upon us, providing us with all we needed to sustain us. At the dawn of this new year, with hearts full of appreciation because of your abundant love and boundless grace, we give you thanks. We ask that our thanksgiving go beyond words as we share our blessings with the world. Give us the grace to continue our praise to you and with you. Amen.



Happy New Year!

In Truth and Justice,

Vernice

Kevin's Korner

January 2010

Background note: Rev. Kevin A. Johnson and Mike Shear are BUMC members who moved to Palm Springs, California, in July 2002, to begin Bloom in the Desert Ministries, which is an interdenominational, inclusive Christian ministry including the Methodist (Broadway style) tradition. "Kevin's Korner" is a monthly column reporting on their progress so Broadway and Bloom stay well connected in ministry together. (www.bloominthedesert.org)



=====

Has an idea dawned on you lately? Has a sense of discovery lit as you learned something new or met someone nice? Maybe it was a delightful surprise, so you thought it serendipity. Or maybe it was an experience of new presence and realization. You call that epiphany.

The season that follows Christmastide is called Epiphany. Epiphany brings light to us. It reminds us to live in the new light God repeatedly creates. I hope this does not seem a trite statement, because there is a lot of spirituality-lite that uses such terms – ahem – too lightly for me.

The beam I believe shines is bright and searing. It reveals a new way of thinking and doing. It illumines our way to life and truth. As Christmastide dims, the journey of growth begins again. I hope as Christians we embrace new thinking about our ancient faith. I hope we grow out of swaddling clothes and into garments of compassion and justice. And I hope we present ourselves as Christians of different molds than the ones seen on TV.

Doing daily ministry in that light, such as when I bring an invocation to the Palm Springs City Council, I try to pray in a way that reflects a different view of an understood picture. As I do, I hope a bulb of new awareness lights in the minds of the gathered council, staff, commissioners and audience members. Here's my latest attempt:

City Council Prayer, 12-16-2009

Thank you Mr. Mayor and members of the Council. May we lift our hearts and open our minds in prayer and meditation:

Eternal Source of light and life, as the seasons come and go, we find ourselves in a time when giving is assumed a virtue. Yet, we know that many in our charge have virtually nothing. So let it be that as business is done, those with privilege remember to think of all that can be done for the many who have so little.

Thank you for giving this city leaders and staff who care about integrity as well as improvements. Bless them, along with their loving and varied families.

We ask they be infused with wisdom when making decisions and care when implementing change. As ribbons are cut in celebration of various programs, help those with power diminish the red tape that can be frustrating in varying degrees for residents and visitors.

Great Spirit, Creator of the energy and mass that make us who we are, pause with us to connect with our intentions and hopes. We invoke your presence as a recognition and an invitation for your divine otherness to add something more to this gathering than we can come up with for ourselves.

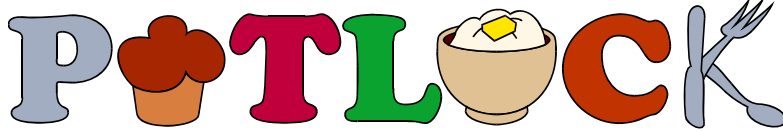
Help this council and staff, and those of us gathered in momentary community, to, as the prophet Micah says, "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with" you.

In your many names and experiences we pray. Amen.

Please keep Bloom and Bloomers in your prayers.

KAJ

WEDNESDAY NIGHT POTLUCK



Please join us in Friendship Hall **every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.** for a potluck dinner! People rotate bringing main dishes and we encourage everyone in attendance to bring something to pass (a bottle of soda, side dish, salad,

dessert, or plates/napkins/utensils) or to help clean up. The group has been growing and we have some wonderful cooks in our congregation. Stop by for food, great conversation and fun!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Sanctuary Prayer

Need some meditation time after a stressful day? Need strength and encouragement to complete the week? Need quiet time to reflect on transitions going on in your life? Need special prayer to help you through a particularly challenging time? If you answered yes to any of these questions, there is a special place to have those needs addressed. Sanctuary Prayer is open to the church and community **each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm**. Come, enjoy the quiet, and listen to meditative music and the healing sound of water. A pastor is available for special prayer and consultation.



Guided Meditation



In addition to Sanctuary Prayer, Vernice and Lois will be offering Guided Meditation in the Pillow Room at **5:30 pm on Wednesdays, beginning 1/20/10** (please see page 2 and 5 for information on 1/6 and 1/13). If you're interested, come in comfortable clothes for this brief meditation prior to potluck. If you have questions about guided meditation, please see Vernice or Lois.

The Prayer Wall

located in Friendship Hall, is available to share our joys and concerns with each other. You may take a prayer with you, or if you like, you can leave the prayer on the board so the community, in passing, might lift a prayer of hope and healing. Prayer cards are available at the Prayer Wall.



WNL! EDUCATION HOUR

On **January 6th and 13th at 7pm** Wednesday Night Live! presents a time of study and guided meditation with the Psalms. Wear comfortable clothing and come prepared to reflect on these two powerful Psalms: Psalm 30 — A celebration of God's deliverance and Psalm 136 — The never ending story of God's love.

Beginning on **January 20th at 7pm** for 4 weeks we will study Rob Bell's book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith*.

We know there's something more. We sense it, we feel it, and we want it. But how do we find it — a spirituality that stands up to the questions of an honest, searching mind? Questions like, "When you hear the word Christian, what do you think of? When people read the word Christian in the newspaper what might they think of? How do you think our views are similar to and different from reality?"

If you've ever asked yourself these questions or are curious about the "something more" when it comes to your faith journey, join us for this conversation. Questions? Contact Pastor Vernice (at 773-348-2679 or akatinyt@hotmail.com) or M.J. Grimshaw (mgrimshaw@sbcglobal.net).

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Get ready, Get set! Soon into the New Year (and new decade!) our Broadway Pastors, The Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development (CONLD), and The Mission & Vision Team will host ALL CHURCH small discussion groups to discern what the Broadway Community imagines for the future of this church at the beginning of this new decade. The plan is to have the entire community placed into small groups of 12 people (hmmm...Disciples?!!) and get down to work to share our ideas for Broadway's mission. As the group works to gain some trust with each other it may also be a place to discuss what's on our minds, such as living into our celebration of people of all sexual orientations, our recently passed Anti-Racist Declaration (see page 6), as well as our church's fiscal sustainability and sustainability of mission. We'll focus on how to continue to bring the community together by listening and bonding with each other in small groups, and we'll also kick around some thoughts on a possible new church organizational structure for ministry at Broadway. A little nebulous, a little ambitious, well, Yes, God, Yes! But honest discernment probably shouldn't be too structured. Know though that as organizers we're committed to hosting groups of our best selves, where we hold up and respect the CONLD theme of "every person in ministry."

Look for these small 'Disciple Groups' to form in mid to late January, and to meet at least 4 times, possibly 4 times over as few as 6 weeks to help keep the thoughts flowing! Mission & Vision members, who have been doing some tough but life-changing work around how to listen and learn from people different than ourselves, will be gently facilitating and listening in these small groups, and will help organize each small group's ideas and visions for Broadway. CONLD members will be listening and facilitating as well, thinking on questions such as 'Who are we as individuals in this community,' 'How can we fit together,' 'What are our talents and strengths.'

So, we hope this sounds exciting to everyone! Stay tuned for more information about these ALL CHURCH small 'Disciple Groups' to go out in early January!

Jon-Erick

CONLD, Mission & Vision

Statement of Anti-Racist Intent

Adopted by Broadway United Methodist Church on December 6, 2009

Broadway United Methodist Church has a long standing commitment to inclusion and community, considering any attempts at oppression to be inconsistent to our spiritual journey. It is in this spirit that we seek to acknowledge and address the deep and lasting damage that is caused by racism in this society. Through our study and experience we acknowledge the following:

- That racism is an artificial system rooted in a belief of the superiority of whiteness and bestows benefits, unearned rights, rewards, opportunities, advantages, access, and privilege in the United States on Europeans and European descendants.
- That the reactions of people of color to racism are internalized through destructive patterns of feelings and behaviors impacting their physical, emotional, and mental health and their spiritual and familial relationships.
- That, through institutionalized racism, laws, customs, traditions, and practices have been put into place into every institution in this country to systemically foster inequalities and continue to enforce white privilege.
- That the journey to anti-racist multiculturalism is not an easy one, because the history of institutionalized racism in this country makes it very easy to miss or underestimate its effects on the local congregation, enslaving both white people and people of color.

In our effort to address the evil of racism that permeates our society and our institutions, in acknowledgement of our active or passive complicity in perpetuating the traditions that keep institutional racism in force, we the community of Broadway United Methodist Church hereby formally and publicly declare our intention to become an Anti Racist Congregation!

We are aware that this is the beginning of a journey of commitment to a specific part of our general vision made possible only because of previous steps that we as a congregation have taken on the path toward justice. We celebrate that we have been able to arrive at this point together and acknowledge that, although we may not yet be at the point where we have a common awareness of our identity and may not have the common definitions to make our goal a practical reality, we are committed to do the necessary institutional analysis and restructuring to make it happen. This will include a commitment to explore the following actions:

- To embark on a program of study, understanding and analysis that will enable us to develop common definitions and observations regarding racism in our community and strategies for countering and changing any policies or traditions that keep racism in our institution.
- To develop accountable relationships individually, among the members of the congregation, and communally, with other communities that will speak truth and compassion to one another, in order to be able to evaluate our progress and fidelity to our goal.
- To become a witness, both internally and externally, of our commitment and our goals, acknowledging both our successes and our failures along our journey, so that we may maintain a public presence in this issue.

We are ultimately aware that this will not be a quick fix, and that the process that we are outlining is one that may take decades to show significant progress, since we working with deeply ingrained set of individual and institutional habits. However, we realize that this process, as part of our commitment to inclusion, is necessary for our very survival as an institution and we humbly ask the grace of God to help us in our commitment and our journey.

Newsletter Deadline and Constant Contact

This month we hope to have our new website ready...and, as you know, we are using "Constant Contact" as a way to send both the newsletter and announcements. Please let the office know your email if you are not receiving "Constant Contact" and would like to — thanks. Be sure to send to Alexia's **new email address** at the office: **broadwayc@ameritech.net**.

Submissions for the **February 2010** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, January 17**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to **broadwayc@ameritech.net**. Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Mornings during the 10:00 am Education Hour

Adult Ed 1: Lectionary Study continues in Area C.

Adult Ed 2: following up both *Claiming The Promise* and *GenderQueer*...Tricia Nowacki will lead Kathy Rudy's *Sex and the Church: Gender, Homosexuality, and the Transformation of Christian Ethics*. We'll meet Sundays at 10 am in the Pillow Room on **January 10, 17, 24, & 31**. Amazon's reviewer writes: "One of the major opponents of the gay rights movement has been conservative, organized Christian churches...In *Sex and the Church*, theologian Rudy reevaluates traditional Christian positions on both sexuality and gender and comes up with surprising questions and conclusions. Is gender a good--or even moral--way to evaluate a person's relationship to God? How do we discuss the morality of sexual behavior?...Smart, incisive, and fearless in its attempt to locate the meaning and truth of "morality" in sexual desire and everyday life."

CHURCH & WORLD CONCERNS

January Mission Minute — Church of the Reconciler

The January Mission Minute is the Church of the Reconciler, a United Methodist congregation located in Birmingham, Alabama. This Church is our partner congregation, offering "radical hospitality" to all people. As a multi-cultural, interracial church, its commitment to diversity presents never-ending challenges — something we at Broadway thoroughly understand. Church of the Reconciler sees its challenge not in making everyone feel comfortable all the time, but in embodying God's love for all. Additionally the Church believes it must be in mission with the community. Each Sunday clothes are distributed to 30 to 40 homeless people. Each Sunday over 200 people are served a meal. Each Sunday 35 to 40 children are served breakfast. They help provide school uniforms to children whose families cannot afford them and have facilitated the donation of cars to needy families. They have a drop-in center for the homeless and have renovated houses. Every dollar has impact; their need is profound; and they live and serve with great faith. The Church's website is www.churchofthereconciler.org. Please give generously so that many may be served.

January's Mission Minute Sunday is **January 10, 2010**. However, you can make donations to *Church of the Reconciler* throughout the month. To donate, mark your envelope or check with the Mission Minute. (Make check out to Broadway Church but be sure to mark your donation for *Church of the Reconciler* or January Mission Minute.)

The Broadway

January 2010

Pastor: Rev. Lois McCullen Parr
Associate Pastor: Rev. Vernice Thorn
Administrative Assistant: Alexia Kruger
Outreach Ministry: Rev. Kevin A. Johnson, Bloom in the Desert

Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays!

Broadway United Methodist Church
3338 N Broadway St
Chicago, IL 60657