



**Broadway**  
United Methodist Church



# The Broadway — February 2010

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## The Pastor's Paragraphs

*We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.*

~ 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (The Message)

I will never forget about 15 years ago hearing my friend Carolyn say, "You have no idea: every single day it is so hard to be black in America."

She's right: I have *no idea*.

I was thinking about Carolyn's comment this week as I read the story of a young Graduate Teaching Assistant at Ohio State University who died by suicide. Trying to make sense of her death, her friends felt that the "closest thing she left to a suicide note" was a copy of an article by Dr. Rebecca Wanzo, who will be our guest here at Broadway during Black History Month. Rebecca's article was about the silent pain African American women live with; about their "struggle to find a voice" while carrying that pain.

Carolyn's right: *I have no idea*.

I'm 52, white, married to a man, have two children. As a child the names I got called on the playground were "skinny," "ugly," "nerd," and "n-lover." This last, I assume, because in 1962 I played with my black friend Debbie when most of the playground was segregated.

I don't know when I could say I began to identify an intention of "doing anti-racist" work...I just know that I've sought to continue to learn what it is to speak about racial injustice when I see it. Our conversation in the Anti-Racist White Caucus here at Broadway reminds me that I began these lessons early; growing up in that segregated Muskegon Heights, Michigan, I learned that my parents were the only ones on the street who would give you a spanking if they heard "the n word."

Jump ahead 48 years and I am learning anew the awareness that it takes, *every day*, to live into standing with our sisters and brothers who are black. It's not only celebrating Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King Day, and Black History Month... although those are vital ways for us to celebrate that we are family. It's grieving that the earthquake devastation in Haiti is made worse by the ways in which our nation has neglected the poverty and suffering of Haitians for years – a racial decision.

(continued on page 7)

# Vernice's View

## **Building the Beloved Community: The Next Steps**

A group of us met to plan Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend and we decided on the theme: *Building the Beloved Community: The Next Steps*. We selected this phrase first, to embrace the values of Dr. King; and second, to shape our continued journey around those same values.

We favored the word “building” because it is a verb and indicates action. The word “community” is how we intentionally name ourselves each Sunday as we celebrate community and connection. The words “next steps” point us to the future. We had wonderful dialogue around this theme and determined it was a worthy goal to maintain through February as we celebrate Black History Month.

Being community is not a new theme for us. We’ve talked about creating, building and sustaining community. Bishop Yvette Flunders, in her book *Where the Edge Gathers* tells us, “Sustaining community requires an intentional effort to design a framework that includes everyone in the life of the church. We must constantly revisit the commitment to be inclusive and compassionate along with being responsible and accountable.” Bishop Flunders lists four components for community: intentionality, inclusivity, responsibility and accountability. Reasonable words? Yes. Logical words? Yes. Easy to live out? No. But that is the work we have committed ourselves to. It is an ideal which continues to unfold for us in our faith journey.

For those of us who planned, worked, participated and/or attended the Martin Luther King Community Dinner, we caught a glimpse of community at its best. We experienced a community that embraces the four necessary components to sustain and live into a vision of inclusion. It was exciting, it was spiritual, it was heart warming. Truly, it was a God moment as we shared a meal together followed with sharing our pain, our joy, our hopes, through poetic renderings in word and song. The most amazing part for me was the amount of risk folks took as they shared their innermost thoughts and struggles. And it wasn’t just Broadway people. There were visitors who dared to share. We had a large group of youth from the community who, in faith (in themselves, in God, and in us), took the risk of sharing their art. And yes, we received them with love and grace. Community at its best! Thanks be to God!

As we sort through who we are and who we want to be, let’s include this experience in our next steps journal. Moments like this inspire and motivate us to move through the hard stuff, knowing that we never completely leave it behind. For it is often the struggle that helps us appreciate even more those moments of breakthrough, those times when it all comes together and makes sense. That’s where we are my sisters and brothers. God continues to give us opportunity, beyond the pain and feelings of hopelessness, to make community and to authentically find connection. I invite and encourage us to embrace those moments, to tell these stories to each other when the way seems blocked. The obstacles we see are often just opportunities. Places, which in faith, we can claim as stepping stones. They lead us to next steps. Praise God, our journey continues...

In Truth and Justice,

*Vernice*

## Kevin's Korner

February 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org))



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Hello Broadway friends and colleagues:

At Bloom's Open Leadership Team (admin. council) meeting in January, I relayed how I felt that our Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season was great. Worship was filled with wonderful music and moving content. Attendance was up about 10%. Our friendship gatherings were warm and fun.

I could add that we found another way to be more accessible by following Broadway's lead and including selections from *The Inclusive Bible* in our Christmas Eve Service of Candles, Readings and Carols. These are just some random points.

As I finished, our moderator (lay leader) Richard Bentley talked of his feelings that, while the holiday season was wonderful, the returned-snow-bird season was upon us and Christmas seemed distant to him. That's not because it was unmemorable, he said. It's because we have so much that is wonderful on our plate now and ahead.

Happenings: Martin Luther King Sunday with our Soul Food Brunch -- the biggest and best so far. A book study of Rev. Scotty McLennan's *Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All* with members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert who are joining us in this study as a neighborly gesture and because the author is Unitarian. BTW -- Rev. Scotty was the Yale roomie of Gary Trudeau and happens to be one half of the character model for Rev. Scot Sloan in "Doonesbury."

In February we have on the 7th our 5th Annual Meeting since organizing, with a Mardi Gras potluck lunch planned. On the 14th, along with Valentine's Day, we will celebrate Chinese New Year with special music and hospitality. This year we are going to try to do a better job of noting Black History Month on the 21st and the 28th.

Something new: Bloomers are actively planning a "Spring Fling Cabaret" on March 5th benefiting Bloom's endowment fund. As part of our strategic thinking, we are working toward the congregation's long term sustainability. We hope to net \$10,000 for our tiny endowment fund. The core group meeting weekly is strong. The effort is building good energy. 200 tickets to sell. Silent Auction items to secure. The location is a recently opened contemporary art gallery in one of Palm Springs' historic buildings. If you want more info or to contribute to the fund, simply visit [www.bloominthedesert.org](http://www.bloominthedesert.org).

Here's a question: Would you like to be on our weekly "BloomNotes" email newsletter distribution list? If "Yes!" is your answer, just write to [revkev@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:revkev@bloominthedesert.org) saying so.

As always, please keep Bloom and Bloomers in your prayers. And thanks again for your support!

KAJ

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2010

## *BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: THE NEXT STEPS*

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Sunday, 7 February, Worship at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

**Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey**

Rev. Dr. Pamela R. Lightsey is a native of West Palm Beach, Florida. She celebrates the love of five children: LaGeisha (daughter), Kedar (grandson), Dweylon (son), Treva (her “niece” — the daughter of her late best friend), and Braylon (“grandson”). All her children live in the Atlanta area and therefore, Atlanta has become her home of record. Pamela is an Army veteran, former civil service worker and insurance agent. She is now an ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. Having received her Ph.D. in theology and ethics at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, it is her joy to now serve the school as their Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.



Pamela is an author and scholar and enjoys teaching, lecturing and leading workshops. Her particular passions are just-war theory, Black liberation theology and Womanist queer theology. She is a social justice activist. She was recognized and awarded the key to the city of Columbus, Georgia for her social justice work benefiting the citizens of that community. Given this modern age of technology, she has chosen not to bore you with pages upon pages of her bio and instead gladly invites you to google her name or visit her website at [www.OneNabi.com](http://www.OneNabi.com). As a United Methodist elder, Pamela keeps her clergy connection with Broadway United Methodist Church.

**Tuesday, 16 February, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Community Dinner; Reading & Discussion, co-hosted by Broadway's People of Color and Anti-Racist White Caucuses**

**Guest Author: Dr. Rebecca Wanzo,**

**Associate Professor Women's Studies and English, The Ohio State University**



Rebecca Wanzo received her Ph.D. in English from Duke University. Her research interests include theories of affect, African American literature and culture, critical race theory, popular culture – particularly the history of popular genre fiction in the U.S. and graphic storytelling. She has published articles and book chapters about science fiction, child abduction, law and literature, African American women and performance, and superhero comics. Her first book, *The Suffering Will Not Be Televised: African American Women and Sentimental Political Storytelling* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2009), looks at how citizens frame stories about suffering to make their claims legible to the state. Her current book project, *The Melancholic Patriot*, examines representations of African American citizenship in comic art.

**Saturday, 20 February, 7:00 p.m.**

**Guest Musician: Mark Miller**

**Organ Concert: African American Composers**

Mark A. Miller serves on the faculty at Drew University and at Yale University where he teaches sacred music and worship. He is also the Minister of Music at Covenant United Methodist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey. Previously he was Director of Contemporary Worship at Marble Collegiate Church in New York and Music Associate and Assistant Organist of The Riverside Church in New York City. Mark is well known as a composer, worship leader, teacher and performer of sacred music. He has performed concerts and directed conferences at churches across the United States and internationally. Mark was the Director of Music for the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Forth Worth, Texas. Find out more at [www.markamillermusic.com](http://www.markamillermusic.com).



**Suggested donation: \$10. But if you can't afford it, please come anyway!**

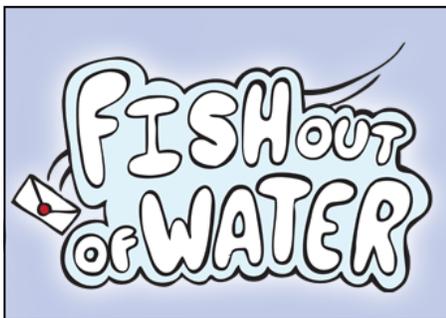
**Sunday, 21 February, Worship at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

**Special Musical Guest for Worship: Mark Miller**

See above for information about Mark Miller.

**Sunday, 21 February, 1:00 p.m.**

***Fish Out of Water* — Join us for a screening of this amazing film!**



*Fish Out of Water* seizes the issue of homosexuality and the Bible, dissecting the impact it has had on American culture, politics, the LGBTQI community and the Christian Church as a whole. With animated historical clips and quirky interviews taken from barbershops to truck stops, the film will inspire, inform, and with hope, transform America.

The film will be followed by a Q/A discussion with the director and producer (Ky Dickens), co-hosted by Broadway's People of Color and Anti-Racist White Caucuses as we continue to explore the intersections of oppressions.

**Suggested donation: \$10. But if you can't afford it, please come anyway!**

**Sunday, 28 February, 2:00 p.m.**

**Concert: *The Reclaimers***

*The Reclaimers* was born of a desire to sing bluegrass, gospel, and other forms of religious, spiritual, and folk music. However, the lyrics in many traditional folk songs and hymns are not always consistent with our ideas about the radical love and welcome of God. We believe that the original spirit of liberation and social justice contained within these songs is one worth sharing. It is therefore our desire to pair their great melodies and harmonies with words – some new and some traditional – that empower us all to grow together in Spirit.



*The Reclaimers* are: Curt Bewley, Phil Davis, Laura Goetz, and Catherine Webb.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!



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!

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,

## 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 p.m.** 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 are offering Guided Meditation in the Pillow Room at **5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays**, 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.

## Wednesday Night Education Hour

On **February 3 and 10th at 7 pm**, we will continue our study of Rob Bell's book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith*. If you 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).

Developing our February theme of *Building the Beloved Community: The Next Steps*, Christian Education announces a five week Lenten study of Eric Law's book, *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*. This book by Eric Law explores, with spiritual reflection, the dynamics of multicultural misunderstandings and how different cultures perceive and use power. Plan to join us at **7 p.m. on Wednesdays from Feb 24th to March 24th** in the Pillow Room. To reserve your spot and book contact Rev. Vernice at akatinyt@hotmail.com or call the office 773-348-2679. This class will be facilitated by Elina Rodriguez.

# LENT BEGINS THIS MONTH!

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted... a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together... a time to seek, and a time to lose... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak ... God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover God has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end...”*

~ Ecclesiastes 3

Well...there is still plenty of cold to remind us we're still in the season of winter.

So...you, like us, may find it hard to believe this: Lent is just around the corner! This year, Lent's beginning with Ash Wednesday arrives on February 17; Easter comes on April 4 after our 40-day traditional season of contemplation. There may well be snow on the ground for our Sunrise Worship – for that is what it means to recognize the seasons in the Midwest.

Even so, we are invited to *this season* again to find ways to recognize what's most important in making sense of our lives: to simplify; to prepare for the powerful stories of Holy Week and the Resurrection of Easter. This time is intended to be self-reflective, that we may hear in a new way the familiar stories from Luke's Gospel. It's a time when we are invited by our ever-loving God to turn back if we've turned away.

**Won't you join us, beginning on Wednesday, February 17, for Potluck at 6:30 p.m., followed by Ash Wednesday Worship (with imposition of ashes) at 7:30 p.m.**

We invite you to *this season under heaven*, praying that, like us, you will discover something that seems hard to believe – the amazing love of God made known in Christ Jesus.

## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS (CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

It's figuring out how – as a community committed to being together to celebrate difference – we join hands and hearts with those who may not think, speak, Worship, or act like us. It's opening our doors and reaching out – as we did on Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King Day – to young blacks who are struggling in Lakeview, *where they've come for acceptance*.

It's even as simple as noticing that everybody who's pictured on *The Upper Room* devotional is white.

Carolyn's right: *I have no idea*. No idea what it is to live and breathe in a world that is un-like me, doesn't look like me.

But here's what I do have an idea about: I can stand with, sit with, talk with, Worship with, eat with, learn with those who don't look like me. And when I do, maybe I hear a little bit to wake me up. Maybe I can become part of the healing.

This is one of the “next steps” I believe we are talking about when we say, *Building the Beloved Community: The Next Steps*, our theme for Black History Month. These, I believe, are steps of a faithful people.

On the road with you,

*Lois+*

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

# MEET BROADWAY'S PASTORS

As 2010 is underway and we continue in our transition, our pastors have delineated their roles as our spiritual leaders. We remind you that our Associate Pastor, Vernice Thorn, works a 30-hour-week; our appointed Pastor, Lois McCullen Parr, is full-time. We hope that this description of duties helps you see how their calls and ministries complement one another.

## Rev. Lois McCullen Parr, Pastor, Broadway UMC

I am an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, appointed by the Cabinet of the Northern Illinois Conference to serve Broadway and its community. My ordination authority calls me to Word, Table, Order, and Service. As a "second-career pastor," I answered the call from God to vocational ministry a dozen years ago; Broadway is my fourth appointment. My seminary training and ordination requirements led me to a Masters of Divinity, the general preparation for pastoral ministry in the local church.

I see my gifts lived out in this congregation at this time in these ways:

### I. Word & Table

- a. Planning, leading, and participating in Worship
- b. Primary Preacher
- c. Healing ministries
- d. Administering the Sacraments



### II. Order

- a. Oversight of church administration
- b. Oversight of transition & church structure
- c. "Equipping the Saints for Ministry" – i.e., leadership development
- d. Mission & vision

### III. Service

- a. Pastoral care giver (back-up)
- b. Teaching
- c. Outreach & witness
- d. Summer mission trip



### Rev. Vernice L. Thorn, Associate Pastor, Broadway UMC



I am an Ordained Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, currently serving as associate pastor at Broadway UMC. Though totally different denominations, our origins and much of the polity are similar. My ordination authority calls me to Word, Table, Order and Service. I answer that call by using the skills and education I received from God and in seminary. I have a Masters degree in Christian Education and one in Pastoral Care and Counseling. I believe my call is one of healing and I see that call being answered through my gifts of Christian education and pastoral care. As I do ministry, it is important to understand both my call and my passion. I feel very fortunate to be in collaborative ministry with a lead pastor who also has that understanding. Each of us brings many gifts and we have found that our gifts complement each other and together bring new opportunity and possibility to the life of this congregation as we share them.

Here is how I see my gifts lived out in this congregation at this time:

#### I. Word and Table

- a. Planning, leading, and participating in Worship
- b. Preaching
- c. Teaching and leading Bible Studies
- d. Administering the Sacraments

#### II. Service

- a. Education coordinator
  - Children, youth and adults
- b. Spiritual Formation coordinator
  - Small group study and instruction
  - Prayer and meditation opportunities
- c. Pastoral Care Giver

Addressing depression, bereavement and loss, individual and couples counseling, life transitions and other subjects that involve emotional and spiritual adjustments



## SUNDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY

During the month of February the Sunday Morning Book study will honor a different historical figure from the black community **each Sunday at 10 a.m.** During the month plan to hear from:

- Audre Lorde from her biomythography titled *Zami, A new spelling of my name*. Audre Lorde is a black lesbian feminist poet and activist. Presenter: Cathy Knight.
- Alice Walker, a womanist, author and Pulitzer Prize recipient, from her book, *The Same River Twice - Honoring the Difficult*. Presenter: Lois McCullen Parr.
- James H. Cone, professor and advocate of black theology from his book, *The Spirituals and the Blues*. Presenter: Vernice Thorn.

# SMALL GROUPS

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, February 14**

Garden Party: Grow Your Dream

# FEBRUARY MISSION MINUTE

The Mission Minute for February is **Vital Bridges** (formerly Open Hand Chicago), 5543 N. Broadway, Chicago, 60640. Vital Bridges helps more than 2,000 people impacted annually by HIV and AIDS throughout metropolitan Chicago. Goals are to improve health and build self sufficiency. Vital Bridges' programs include:

- **Food Services** consisting of five strategically located grocery centers and home delivered meals serving nearly 1,800 clients
- **Nutrition Program** counsels clients in medication management, weight management and meal preparation
- **Case Management** assesses needs and provides referrals, guidance and emotional support for 200 clients annually
- **Housing Program** addresses housing issues and places clients in safe living situations
- **Educational Services** provide tutoring, computer literacy, life skills and job readiness training
- Vital Bridges participates in the Chicago 5K AIDS Run/Walk hosted by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago every fall.

More information can be found online at [www.vitalbridges.org](http://www.vitalbridges.org). VITAL BRIDGES IS DEPENDENT UPON VOLUNTEERS TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROGRAMS. Their phone is 773-271-5117.

February's Mission Minute Sunday is **February 14, 2010**. However, you can make donations to *Vital Bridges* 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 *Vital Bridges* or February Mission Minute.)

# SUMMER MISSION TRIP

## INTERESTED IN A SUMMER MISSION TRIP?

We're exploring a summer mission trip to the UMC Spirit Lake Volunteers in Mission Center on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota – please let Paula Roderick, Fran Markwardt, or Clayton Parr know if you are interested, and your availability to get away for a week at the end of July! (emails are, respectively: [fairjust@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fairjust@sbcglobal.net); [franmarkw@att.net](mailto:franmarkw@att.net); [cparr@depaul.edu](mailto:cparr@depaul.edu)). Folks of any skill level, aged 13-90, are welcomed!

# TODDLERS' PLAYHOUSE

## “Come Fun, Come All”: Toddlers’ Playhouse a trendsetter!

Toddlers’ Playhouse, which makes its home at Broadway on weekdays during the school year, is on the front page of [dailycandy.com](http://www.dailycandy.com) this week!

Check it out at <http://www.dailycandy.com/kids/all-cities/article/79159/Toddlers-Playhouse>. If you click on the photo, it takes you right to the Toddlers’ Playhouse site.

The reporter for “Daily Candy,” a site with all the latest trends in everything from fashion to food to travel to kids, called Sheila to ask about Toddlers’ Playhouse and ended up with this:

*Step right up, mamas. Amazing sights lie behind this door. Tots play with parachutes! Babies pop giant bubbles! A puppeteer sends everyone into giggle fits!*

*A carnival of fun awaits at Toddlers’ Playhouse, Lakeview’s playgroup for kids (6 months to 4 years) and their caregivers. It’s held in winter only, so get a membership now (good for one or several days a week) to see what tricks founder Sheila Ashby Schultz has up her sleeve.*

*Ooh! Group activities include easel painting, musical chairs, and story time. Aah! Your mini acrobat can also do his own thing, like explore ride-on toys, play dress-up, and practice tumbling.*

# HISTORICAL NOTE

## Just a Little Reminder

“Who’s Responsible?”  
from *Church News*, February 1914

Look this way a moment and read this message. A hard question has propounded itself to the writer. This is it: “WHO’S RESPONSIBLE?” Responsible for what? Answer, for everything. The Sunday School, the Official Board administration, the successful administration of the financial budget, etc. Is every department of the church going as it should? If not, why not? Who should call the official members together when necessary business is to be seen to? The pastor? No, of course not. He is with somebody that is ill, somebody that is in trouble, preaching a funeral. Can’t call him from there. The church belongs to the members of the Church Trustees and whose servants they are. They are responsible for the matter. Again I say, “WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?” Dear reader, answer.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

## Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **March 2010** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, February 21**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to [broadwayc@ameritech.net](mailto:broadwayc@ameritech.net). Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.

# The Broadway

**February 2010**

**Pastor:** **Rev. Lois McCullen Parr**  
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**Associate Pastor:** **Rev. Vernice Thorn**  
akatinyt@hotmail.com

**Office Manager:** **Alexia Kruger**  
broadwayc@ameritech.net

**Outreach Ministry:** **Rev. Kevin A. Johnson, Bloom in the Desert**  
revkev@bloominthedesert.org

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

**Broadway United Methodist Church**  
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