



Broadway
United Methodist Church



The Broadway — March 2010

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The Pastor's Paragraphs

I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your elders will have prophetic dreams and your young people will see visions. ~ Joel 2:28

Last Wednesday I was captured by God in our quiet, contemplative Taizé-style Worship, held in the grip of the theology behind ashes.

We say, "from dust you come; to dust you shall return," as the ashes are imposed in the sign of the cross on the foreheads of those present. A reminder of our mortality. A reminder that there are some things in us that need to die in order for us to find new life.

This reminder that the new life comes *only after we consent to the death part...well...that*, for me, is the difficult work of Lent. Death to the stuff I don't need. Death to the anger I've held on to. Death to the familiarity of pain that keeps me walking wounded. Death to living with a focus on what I want for my life (rather than living with what God wants for my life).

One of our readings was of a woman finding the courage to remove her wig, to allow the death of her false self to free her to live as the self created and claimed by God. She writes, "I was ready to stop hiding and ready to start growing...I wanted to be the person who has dreams and goals and lives them out."

It's my hope for Broadway that, as we practice the Lenten discipline of self-reflection, we also use the time in small groups to share what we discover about our true selves. It's my hope, too, that we can shed those things that hold us back from honoring our dreams and the dreams of others.

I'm inspired by the poetry of Alicia Carpenter, who writes:

*Break away! Take a taste of the day,
Take time to find a kind of inner rhyme That tickles your mind and sends it soaring!
So much in life is boring. Moments are so meant to be delicious.*

*Break away! Use your power to choose,
Fuse your elusive bits of inner music Honor your dream and send it soaring!
Visions are never boring, Dreaming, redeeming a human soul.*

The image that our visions can redeem a human soul gives me courage to surrender. To identify those things that are holding me back, those things that need to die so that *what is new can grow*.



On the journey with you,

Lois +

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



Vernice's View

We have just experienced an exhilarating February. Black History Month was phenomenal, with Dr. Pamela Lightsey leading us into the month with her inspirational preaching on the first Sunday, followed by Dr. Rebecca Wanzo, professor at Ohio State University, with her book study and workshop on her book *The Suffering will not be televised*, followed by an exceptional organ concert by Mark Miller. Mark and his partner, Mike, as well as his vocalist and drummer, worshipped with us on the 3rd Sunday. That same afternoon there was a screening of the film *Fish out of Water* with director, Ky Dickens, and producer, Kristen Kaza, who answered questions about the project after the showing. The last Sunday of February features *The Reclaimers*, a bluegrass ensemble who embraces inclusive language and theology in their songs. But that wasn't all. There was education time dedicated to Black History month. Each Sunday at the 10:00 Education Hour people and unique topics from the African American community were presented as we continue to build community through dialogue. It was a moving time and I believe a time that embodied our theme for the month, **Building the Beloved Community: The Next Steps**. As we are intentional about learning and living who we are as a diverse and welcoming community, we indeed are becoming the Beloved Community.

This year before the end of the month we began our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday on February 17th.

As March commences we are still on our Lenten journey. And as I said in my sermon on the first Sunday of Lent, it is a time of preparation and meditation. Our text for that Sunday, from the Gospel of Mark, is where Jesus is lead into the wilderness. Wilderness time can be a painful time, but it can also be an opportunity to examine our hearts, as we search for meaning in our life and as we explore our relationship with God. My prayer is that our Lenten journey be meaningful and inspirational as we move toward Resurrection Day.

One tradition of Lent is to give something up. I would ask that we consider, instead of giving something up, to add something to our life – like an additional 10 minutes of prayer or meditation time to our day, or a service project to our month or additional time or money to Broadway; why not add another hour of quality family time, or maybe one day a month to catch up with friends by email, by letter, or by phone; start a prayer list...There are many ways to effect change in our lives, in our community and in the world. Our Lenten theme is **Grow your Dream**. My dream is that through my gifts and the gifts of the Broadway Community, the world might be a more equitable place.

During this Lenten journey, as we spend time in the wilderness, let's name it a time of growth and opportunity – let's dream about who we might be and take the steps to make it happen.



In Peace and Justice,

Vernice

Haiti Donations

THANK YOU! for the generous gifts to Haiti -- over \$1000 in cash contributions, and a carload of supplies for the health kits (thanks to Jenn Peterson for delivering these).

Keep Haiti in your prayers as the disaster response and rebuilding continues.

Kevin's Korner

March 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)



Hello Broadway friends and colleagues:

As always, please keep Bloom and Bloomers in your prayers. We so much appreciate your support!

The key to March for Bloom comes early. As I mentioned last month, our "Spring Fling Cabaret and Silent Auction" is on March 5th benefiting Bloom's Endowment Fund. This is us working toward our congregation's long term sustainability. We plan to net \$10,000 for our tiny endowment fund. The committee has been working so hard. We are about half way toward our goal of 200 ticket/donations. The energy is great! Do come. Here is how we are promoting this in the community and among our families and friends:

Refreshing Cabaret Evening in Oasis of Contemporary Art March 5th

PALM SPRINGS, CA – An array of Cabaret music in a contemporary art gallery in a historic Palm Springs building on Friday, March 5th from 6 to 9PM is open to all. The first ever "Spring Fling Cabaret and Silent Auction" benefit at the renowned Michael H. Lord Gallery, 1090 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, has tickets now on sale.

The featured Cabaret entertainers are sisters Elizabeth Dreyfuss and Dela Zimmer, Richard Bentley, Charles Herrera, Tim Bruneau, Keisha D, Eric Frankson, Troy Skinner, Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer, Joel Baker and Joel Robeson at the gallery's beautiful Steinway Grand Piano.

<p>Friday, March 5th 6-9pm at MICHAEL H. LORD GALLERY ...AN OASIS OF CONTEMPORARY ART 1090 North Palm Canyon Drive Palm Springs</p> <p>FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY: Dela Zimmer & Elizabeth Dreyfuss with Richard Bentley Charles Herrera with Tim Bruneau Keisha D with Eric Frankson Troy Skinner with Richard Bentley Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer with Joel Baker Joel Robeson</p> <p>\$45.00 TICKET DONATION INCLUDES FOOD, SOFT DRINKS, PREMIUM WINE CASH BAR</p> <p>Tickets/info: 760-322-3718 www.bloominthedesert.org</p>	
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The silent auction features a handcrafted classical guitar in the 1943 Hauser shape, artfully created by Woodley White in Hawaii, with exclusive styling and aged veneer woods. The one-of-a-kind guitar is valued at \$5000 with a minimum bid of \$1500. Other items include a golf pro lesson, fine art and lithographs, a weekend in a high-desert cottage, pool and landscaping services, and dining certificates.

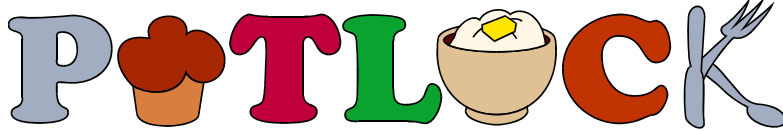
Hors-d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be served as well as offering a premium wine cash bar. Suggested donation is \$45 per person and tickets in blocks of 10 are available for \$400. Tickets and information are at 760-322-3718 or www.bloominthedesert.org.

Spring Fling Cabaret benefits the endowment fund for Bloom in the Desert Ministries. "Bloom" is recognizing its seventh anniversary of building a community that celebrates diversity, fellowship and service. Bloom's members and friends are fundraising to ensure the long-term sustainability of this small and vital, liberal protestant, new-church-start.

"Bloomers" are community minded. They make 500 sandwiches weekly for homeless, working poor and elderly poor while assisting The Well in the Desert. Bloom's "Jim Trout Memorial Fund" underwrites backpacks and school supplies each school year for dozens of needy children referred by desert school officials. Food and toiletry items are collected weekly to support Food Now in Desert Hot Springs. Hygiene kits for Haiti are being assembled and sent. Bloom is a United Church of Christ and Reconciling Methodist Congregation that says "God wants you to think for yourself and live for others."

The Michael H. Lord Gallery, "an oasis of contemporary art," is located in the Palm Springs Uptown Design District on North Palm Canyon at Tachevah Drive. The gallery's architecturally-significant historic building was built in 1929 as the garage for the landmark El Mirador Hotel.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!



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!

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

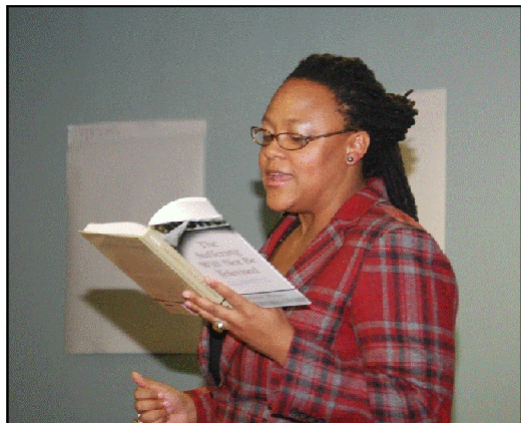
In addition to Sanctuary Prayer, Vernice and Lois are offering Guided Meditation in the Pillow Room at **5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays**, If you're interested, come in comfortable clothes for this brief meditation prior to potluck. If you have questions about guided meditation, please see Vernice or Lois.

Wednesday Night Education Hour

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 is being facilitated by Elina Rodriguez.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2010

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: THE NEXT STEPS



Among our events for Black History Month, Broadway welcomed Dr. Rebecca Wanzo, author of *The Suffering Will Not Be Televised: African American Women and Sentimental Political Storytelling*. Co-sponsored by the People of Color and Anti-Racist White Caucuses, the evening's discussion turned into a workshop as we discussed suffering (our own and others') and how society responds to suffering.

Following Dr. Wanzo's reading, we broke into four groups to discuss pain and our response to it. We ended the evening sharing the information below, and Dr. Wanzo challenged us a congregation to use the discussion and our time together as we move forward in our congregational

life. Sharing our process and the expression of our learning can be a next step for us as we continue building the beloved community.

<i>What causes pain?</i>	<i>How has pain been ignored?</i>	<i>What can an individual do about it?</i>	<i>What can institutions do about it?</i>
societal pressure to fit a norm bleeds into every aspect of life	passively by silence or a refusal to recognize that there is pain	privileged people can listen to narratives of suffering, acknowledge any complicity in that pain, insist on solutions, and support people who are suffering	by analyzing the structure we recognize and name the problems
judgment leads to pain	actively by judging, blaming, forcing changes	people who are suffering and people in need can speak out about their pain, work for change, and hold others accountable	we bring about structural change by changing rules and procedures
	both passive and active ignoring cause isolation and disconnection		structural change creates opportunities for individual empowerment

We'd also like to thank Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey, Mark Miller, Marcus Johnson, Julian Wamble, Ky Dickens, Kristen Kaza, and the Reclaimers for their wonderful contributions to Broadway's Black History Month 2010!

GARDEN PARTY: GROW YOUR DREAM!



On February 14, we kicked off our small group project (brought to Broadway by the Mission & Vision Team and the Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development) with a fabulous Garden Party (“Cosmos” Small Group pictured to the left). Each small group, named for a flower, will gather four times between now and May 2, in hopes of building relationships and sharing our dreams for Broadway. The four gathering themes are outlined below. If you’ve not heard from a group facilitator and want to be part of the conversation, please call Lois or Vernice to get involved!

Garden Party 1: Our Seeds Take Root

We’ll discuss the seeds of our faith and how we are rooted in God. Our goal will be to come to know one another better and understand what planted us at Broadway.

Garden Party 2: Tilling the Soil

We’ll discuss what excites us about Broadway’s current or potential ministry. We will learn about one another’s passions and how we see ourselves as God’s partners in being good earth, tending God’s crop and spreading the seed of God’s love beyond our immediate community.

Garden Party 3: Growing Your Dream

We’ll allow our dream to begin taking shape. We will discuss what accomplishments would make us proud of our work at Broadway. We’ll talk about how our passions connect to God’s calling for each of us and for her calling for our community.

Garden Party 4: Making the Garden Grow

Spring will be in the air as we conclude our series of discussions. We will concentrate on how we ourselves are part of Broadway’s future. We will listen for God’s call about contributing our individual gifts to our gardening collective.

If your invitation ended up in your spam folder or you thought your invitation for gardening was a mistake...it’s not too late to join your group.

We hope this information helps...but don’t hesitate to talk with one of the pastors or team members if you have questions.

BROADWAY HOLY WEEK VIGIL

Broadway Holy Week Vigil A Moving Experience...

By Scott McGowan

I didn't know what to expect because I had not participated in the Easter Vigil before. I just heard friends say it was moving, spiritual, fun and very memorable. That was back in 2002 before I gave it a try. What's more, only 15 to 25 people experience it each year yet it's open to all who wish to participate. What might you ask is this moving experience? It's the vigil during Lent holy week at Broadway. Now you may say "oh I know all about that" but do you really? Have you experienced it? Have you participated in a vigil?

Each year on the Thursday evening before Good Friday Broadway traditionally hosts a celebration of the Seder meal. The Seder is the traditional meal that celebrates the story of Passover in the Jewish faith. In an expression of Jesus' Jewish roots Broadway celebrates the Seder as part of our holy week experience. Following the Seder a complete night of events, silent meditations, scripture readings and "vigil keeping" occur. BUMC members, constituents, friends and guests spend the evening at the church from 10pm until 6am. The purpose of the vigil is symbolic representation of the time Christ spent in the garden of Gethsemane the night before the crucifixion.

What is a Vigil? A **vigil** (from the Latin *vigilia*, meaning wakefulness) is a period of purposeful sleeplessness, an occasion for devotional watching, or an observance. A **Vigil** can also be a night spent in prayer.

This year's Vigil will be Thursday April 1st, 2010. During the Vigil, every hour from 10pm until 6am all those who stay, gather together by the ringing of a bell. They enter the sanctuary in complete silence for a scripture reading that tells the story of the last supper, the betrayal, the arrest, the denial, the trial and the crucifixion of Christ. Readings are done by the light of a single candle. Following each reading one, or more, individual(s) sign up to stay in the sanctuary for the hour in darkness and silent prayer and meditation keeping "vigil" like Christ did in the garden of Gethsemane the night before being crucified. All time spent in the sanctuary is in complete silence besides for the scripture reading.

In between the sanctuary readings, those who do not to stay in the sanctuary for the hour vigil can participate in one of the many group or individual, self reflection, activities planned from quarter past each hour until the bell rings at the top of the next hour. Activities can include...

Videos

Reflective hymn singing
Special inspirational prayer stations
lit by candle light
Tai Chi or other exercise

Painting or drawing

Season reflective readings and activities
Select Scripture review and analysis
Arts and craft activities and more
Snacks and beverages

Each year that I participate I have brought with me the prayer service cards from close friends and family who have passed in the past year. As I keep my vigil in the sanctuary by the light of the sole candle, and with the fading sounds of the outside street life, I reflect on this time of year, the reason for being at Broadway, the Easter message, our Lenten theme and I remember those who have passed on. As dawn begins to break and the first morning light of Good Friday fills the stained glass and sanctuary windows, each reading leads the group up to the story of the crucifixion. After the 6am reading those who have spent a night in moving vigil experiences together can join for breakfast at the local diner down the street and reflect on their night spent together.

For those who have participated in a Vigil before and have an idea for a devotional subject or activity that might be a good activity for this year's vigil please contact Rev. Lois or Rev. Vernice.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Sunday, March 28th: PALM SUNDAY

- Worship Services at 8:45 and 11 am

Thursday, April 1st: MAUNDY THURSDAY

- Seder Dinner and Vigil

Friday, April 2nd: GOOD FRIDAY

- Evening Worship at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 4th: EASTER

- Sunrise service on the beach (sunrise at 6:29) with Holy Covenant UMC
- 8:45 Prayer & Preaching Worship
- 10:00 Easter Brunch
- 11:00 Festival Worship



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; franmarkw@att.net; cparr@depaul.edu). Folks of any skill level, aged 13-90, are welcomed!

FINANCE UPDATE

How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?

~ Psalm 116:12 (NIV)

As the last Finance meeting, Pastor Lois opened our meeting with a spiritual meditation from Mary Lou Carney. Ms. Carney talks about driving to church one Sunday fuming because of the abysmal return on her 401ks and other investments. When she arrives at church she is handed her giving statement. As she looks around the church at the new small group ministry, expanded youth program, and vibrant community, she realizes that she has had at least one investment that has returned one hundredfold.

I find this a helpful way to think about my giving -- but would go even farther. When I see community outreach, witness, and worship like Broadway's screening of *Fish Out of Water*, hosting of Dr. Rebecca Wanzo, and concert with Mark Miller, I certainly feel like I have gotten huge return on my investments of time and treasure into Broadway. But even when there is programming or music that is less inspiring to me personally, I still am convicted that my investment is sound.

For me, giving to our church is not like giving to a political party or a charity. When I give I am investing in my relationship with God, and in my commitment to one community, imperfect but still an essential part of the body of Christ. That kind of investment shows its returns not in great programs but in our spiritual lives, building our trust and commitment to God and to one another. I am proud of the way each member of Broadway invests their time, ideas, dollars, or strength to the prophetic witness of welcome and love that Broadway stands for. What I learn from watching each one of you has been the greatest return on my investments by far. Thank you for who you are, and the various ways you give.

In love,

Hannah McConnaughay, Finance Chair

FINANCIAL SUMMARY DEC 09

	<u>YTD Dec 2009</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Dec 2009</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Dec 2008</u>
Gross Income	\$271,007	\$344,600	(\$73,593)	\$356,560
Operating Expenses	<u>\$304,946</u>	<u>\$344,389</u>	(\$39,443)	\$358,431
Net Income	(\$33,939)	\$211	(\$34,150)	(\$1,871)

Submitted by David Hall, 2009 Finance Chair

MARCH MISSION MINUTE



The Mission Minute for March is Doctors Without Borders.

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971. Today, MSF provides aid in nearly 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters. MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need. MSF reserves the right to speak out to bring attention to neglected crises, to challenge inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments and protocols.

MSF was already providing vital medical care to people in Haiti, before the earthquake. In the weeks following the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams raced to provide lifesaving surgery and emergency medical care to thousands of patients. There are still people who need surgery—because their wounds haven't healed, or weren't treated in those early days, or have become infected—but in the main, MSF is now focusing on post-operative care, including rehabilitation, physiotherapy and mental health. For this reason, and because a number of medical organizations that came to Haiti just after the earthquake are now leaving, MSF is increasing the number of beds it has designated for post-operative care. Additionally, because so many people still lack sufficient shelter, MSF is distributing tents, blankets, and hygiene and cooking kits to some of the many displaced people stuck in makeshift, unsanitary camps.

For more information about Doctors without Borders/MSF, visit www.doctorswithoutborders.org.

March's Mission Minute Sunday is **March 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 March Mission Minute.)

HISTORICAL NOTE

Let's Keep that Tradition without Complacency

"Interesting Facts about Folks and Events"
from *Church News*, October 1914

Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Milhoan, of Evanston, attended service last Sunday morning. We were glad to see them again. They report Evanston a very nice place, but they have not found such a warm welcome anywhere as they receive at Broadway.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

REV. GRACE IMATHIU WORKSHOP

"Can you see the vision? Can you see us daring to live with each other in radical ways that overcome the ghosts of our past? Can you see it yet? Can you see us stirring up the system by daring to believe in subversive ideals of justice and mercy and God for all?"

"I am beginning to see God's vision. I can see us, all God's children, embracing and sitting down at the same table and looking each other in the eye in the presence of the one who calls each one of us 'Beloved.'"

"Jesus came to remind us who we are and to free us from the things that would cripple us, keep us bent double with shame or anger or fear, keeping our eyes fixed on the ground. Jesus came to call us to stretch, to grow, to stand up straight, to soar. Child of God, you are called for no less than this. This is your day to fly."

"My theme is the overwhelming need and desire for conversation in our world."

Rev. Grace Imathiu

The Gospel According to Grace

"When you hear Grace Imathiu, you hear the word of God."



Saturday, March 6

SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH

10:00 am — 2:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

1032 Maple Ave, Downers Grove, IL

630-968-7120

Registration Fees (includes lunch)

Adults \$25; Students \$15

Under 18s \$5 (if accompanied by a paying adult)

Grace was born in Kenya and grew up in the city of Nairobi. She was educated in Kenya, the U.S. and at Cambridge University, U.K. Grace enjoys an international reputation as speaker, preacher and teacher. A featured preacher at such events as the Reconciling Ministries Network Convocation and the Festival of Homiletics, her warmth, energy and vivid fresh insights are not to be missed and not easily forgotten. She currently pastors at Brown Deer UMC in Wisconsin.

For more information or to register on-line, go to: <http://dgfumc.org/events/2010/imathiu/>

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **April 2010** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, March 21st**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to newsletter@brdwyumc.org. Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.



The Broadway

March 2010

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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!

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