

The Broadway — February 2011

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The Pastor's Paragraphs

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely; whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.
~ Proverbs 10:9

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech was named and is remembered by those very words – words in the middle of the speech of King's "dream...that *one day*..."

King himself didn't expect the "dream" lines to be remembered; his dramatic conclusion to that 1963 speech included these lines:

With...faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope...we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."...And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring...we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children...will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old...spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

"Let Freedom Ring!" is our theme for Black History Month this year at Broadway – a theme that comes from King's conclusion as he hoped for that day of freedom, that day when his dream would become reality.

Our intersecting commitments here at Broadway – living as an intentionally anti-racist, multicultural community; proclaiming the reconciling love of Christ as an open and affirming place for GLBTQ folks – are borne out of a dream of freedom that celebrates the individuality and gift of each child of God's. We seek to celebrate, as Vernice often says, "who's in the room."

And it's the intentionality of those commitments and that celebration that moves me when I see how Broadway people join hands in prayer or in ministry, sing and disagree, laugh and cry together, help one another to live authentic lives.

For it is when we are authentic that we are able to live most freely, I believe. When we are most certainly known for whom we are, when we can bring our whole selves into conversation and action, when we don't hide the truth of who we are because someone else expects or wants something different from us: it is then that we live freely. That freedom gives us room to let others be free; in that freedom we discover that we hold ourselves accountable.

[continued on page 2]

Vernice's View

A God Moment

I am always on the lookout for God moments; those times when you know for sure that the Spirit of God is present. Though we know in our heads that God is everywhere and in every moment, still there are those exceptional times when God's awesomeness takes your breath away. I experienced that in our last Youth Lounge event.

We had just gotten word that a staff person from The Center on Halsted, one that our youth were particularly close to, had died suddenly. We, the Broadway volunteers, knew that the youth would be devastated and talked about how best to address the situation. We talked through several different scenarios and finally decided that we would let the youth tell us what their needs were and let them direct us in how best to be in community with them.

It was amazing. After the announcement of the death (we wanted to make sure that everyone knew about the loss) one youth asked if they could pray. Without any direction from us, they formed a prayer circle and chose someone to lead prayer. After the first person prayed, others shared prayers of celebration, of sorrow, and thanksgiving for the life of Antonio. To end their time of prayer, one youth offered a song and each of us joined in to share that moment. I watched in amazement as the young people comforted and supported one another.

These young people, many of them homeless, taught me something that evening. They taught me that no matter our situation we can always reach out to others. And as we do so, we gain strength and insight for the journey. They taught me that the spirit of love and connectedness can make all the difference in the world. They taught me the real meaning of community. Community is not necessarily a place with walls, but a place of the heart, a place where love abides and care is given regardless of your particular circumstance. We often feel that outreach is about the tangibles that we can provide, but on that evening the youth needed from us things that cost absolutely nothing: presence, hugs, encouragement, prayers, tears, smiles, listening ears.

I want to thank our youth for all they bring to us and all we learn from them. You are amazing and we love you!



In Truth and Justice,

Vernice

["The Pastor's Paragraphs" continued from page 1]

This authenticity is the meaning of the word "integrity" – the "quality of being entire, complete, and unbroken." Parker Palmer writes in *A Hidden Wholeness* about the value of living with this intention, making a "commitment to act in every situation in ways that honor the soul."

It's that honoring the soul – the true self, the authenticity of self and other – that is a way for freedom to "ring" here in our community and beyond as we seek to share the love of God that calls each of us "beloved child."



On the journey with you,

Lois⁺

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

Kevin's Korner

February 2011

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)



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For the recent Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend, in The Desert Sun's Saturday "Words of Faith" column that I am privileged to contribute to quarterly, I wrote the following:

"We've been through this before: Abraham Lincoln, JFK, Bobby Kennedy, George Wallace, John Lennon, Larry Flynt, Ronald Reagan; and Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we commemorate this weekend.

Shots are fired in a location and shock permeates our world. Horror. Grief. Anger. Blame. Sadness. Resignation. Insulation. Then, start over.

I'm unsure why humans do this to each other. It jars my faith. Some people call it original sin, others point to politics. The attention of talking heads turns to mental illness and laws abandoned. Someone blames pot. Others blame the other. We look for reasons for an unreasonable act. What will stop the repeat shots?

Some of us believe that outward actions come from inward motivations. The saying goes, "garbage in, garbage out." A heap of influences guides our path. A store of values drives our energies spent for good and evil. From inner strength, most build structures to support the good potential we believe all possess. But not all bear that easily.

Biographers say Jackie Kennedy told Bobby to read the classics of Greek tragedy to learn how to cope with grief he suffered over the death of his president brother. She counseled that characters in ancient stories can help us comprehend the senseless.

But why reach back eons to make sense of something that happened last week? Because senseless acts are nothing new. As long as things still go so wrong, we can use human experience to learn how to get things right. That's how we keep faith with our God-given potential.

Through the ages, the prophets and teachers give means for being good to each other. Faith traditions blend those themes. Justice and compassion are repeatedly offered and urged. In our time, we can subdue arrogant self-centeredness and embrace the humble role of student. Do you want to live with each other well? Then learn and practice compassionate and common-sense ways to honor and respect diversity in our communities.

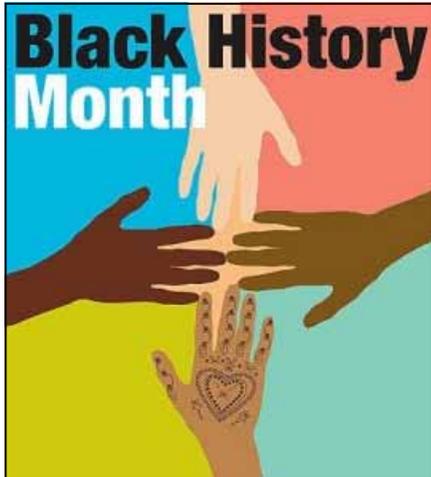
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a pastor before he was a civil rights leader. His Christian faith taught him the value of working for equality even when threats surrounded him. He said: 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.' We can learn from those words of faith."

Based on what I learned at and continue to learn from my Broadway UMC experience, I work to write columns like this. Thank you for your support.

Rev. Kev

Please keep all of us in your prayers. Join the Bloom in the Desert Ministries Group on Facebook, friend Rev. Kev and sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter at www.bloominthedesert.org.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Americans have recognized Black history annually since 1926. We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of Black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Under Dr. Woodson's direction and contributions from other African Americans and white scholars, the "Negro History Week" was launched on a serious platform in 1926 to neutralize the apparent ignorance and deliberate distortion of Black History. Meetings, exhibitions, lectures and symposia were organized to climax the scientific study of the African experience throughout the year in order to give a more objective and scholarly balance in American and World history.

Today, this national and international observance has been expanded to encompass the entire month of February. The expansion, of course, has increased the number of days for celebration, but its strength and importance lie in the new meaning that has emerged. Ralph L. Crowder points out in an article in the December 1977 issue of the *Western Journal of Black Studies*, "it is no longer sufficient to devote the entire month to the celebration of great Negro contributions to the American mainstream." Dr. Crowder believes that it is necessary to use the occasion to also examine the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultural and political experience of the masses of Africans and peoples of African descent.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT BROADWAY

Using our mission statement to guide us this month, at Broadway UMC the community is invited to claim and share this celebration as an expression of our continued efforts to inclusive ministry. The theme for this month is "Let Freedom Ring". Each Saturday of the month we continue the multicultural series with various topics and facilitators. Each Sunday we will experience a multi-media presentation of momentous events in the struggle for freedom, as well as learning new praise songs in the African American tradition. We are thankful to have two guest preachers this month to share their experience with us, Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey and Rev. Pat Thresher. The congregation is also invited to dress in African garb or to in some way show solidarity with folks of African descent on Sunday, February 13th. Also on this Sunday, The People of Color (POC) Discussion group will offer ethnic dishes during coffee hour. At 10:00 am each Sunday morning in February, we offer a lively discussion on the book *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

We are blessed to be an inclusive body that celebrates all of God's people. We affirm identity as a gift from God. We hope that you will join in this celebration. Check the weekly bulletin for updates and more information.

MULTICULTURAL SEMINAR SERIES

As an open and affirming, reconciling, anti-racist institution we believe that all God's people are valued and should have equal access and voice at the table of life. To accomplish this it takes the whole village learning and living together. We invite everyone to participate in a series of seminars which address issues that so often surface in multicultural congregations. This journey is not an easy one, but it is a faithful one, supported by the Gospel message. This educational series is designed to move us further down the road of justice. We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us on this journey.

Multicultural series continues **each Saturday in February from 10 am to 1 pm** in the Wesley Room. Join us for in-depth conversation about how to be community in a multicultural church.

FEBRUARY MISSION MINUTE

February Mission Minute: We're proud to support Church Within A Church. The brave co-conveners include our own Associate Pastor Vernice Thorn and active BUMC member Cathy Knight. Here's the way CWAC describes it's mission: CWAC is heeding the Call to Be Church in new ways and model what the church might one day become.

The Working Strategies of The Church Within A Church Movement:

- * Provide a pathway of Extraordinary Ordination for qualified people denied ordination in the United Methodist denomination because of sexual orientation, gender identify/expression, or inclusive-progressive theology.
- * Promote progressive church plants that encourage prophetic, innovative, creative, and authentic ministries. We are strategic in our planting targets with the desire to provide vital opportunities for ministry to those of sexual minorities.
- * Actively work and witness to break down the walls of racism and white privilege and all exclusions based on perceived differences.
- * Provide curriculum and worship resources for the progressive, inclusive church.
- * Cultivate ecumenical partnerships.

Supporting CWAC is another way we can help "grow" our church family. More information about CWAC can be found at www.cwac.us.

February's Mission Minute Sunday is **February 13**. However, you can make donations to CWAC throughout the month. To donate, mark your envelope or check with the Mission Minute. (Make checks out to Broadway Church but be sure to note CWAC or February Mission Minute.)



WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Eleven Weeks with Matthew



Alpha & Omega – the beginning and the end

Come for a relaxed, informal Bible study – 2011 is the liturgical year of the Gospel according to Matthew, in which Jesus is understood to be the fulfillment of God's activity in human history. God's creation and salvation are completed in Jesus, and our lives are completed in Jesus, says Biblical historian Eugene Peterson. Questions & doubts are welcomed!

Supplies needed: a Bible (if you need one, please ask!)

January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7

Chapters 1-20

Lenten Study: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11

Chapters 21-28: the Passion according to Matthew

Mondays

10-11:30am

Wesley Room @ Broadway
3338 N. Broadway, Chicago

7-8:30pm

@ the home of Bob Gorman
3410 Lakeshore Drive 8F, Chicago

For more information, please call the Broadway Church office at 773.348.2679

SPIRITUALLY POSITIVE

A Confidential HIV/AIDS Support Group

Living with HIV/AIDS can be a tough life to lead, especially if you doing it alone. So at Broadway United Methodist Church we would like to help by providing spiritually based support. Our vision is to offer a safe and confidential place for those in our faith community to share struggles, seek support and prayer. Also to de-stigmatize HIV/AIDS and to reach out to others in the community at large to offer God's peace, hope, joy and love in this struggle! We are currently in the planning stages and welcome anyone interested in participating in the planning process with the hope of starting as early as March 2011. For more information or to participate in the planning you can contact Victor Ponce at mag32nus@gmail.com.

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

Adult Education I: Spiritual Practices – studying prayer, journaling, silence and more. Area C

Adult Education II: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. #1 New York Times Bestseller is about three ordinary women who take one extraordinary step to address fear and evil. This book will have you weeping and cheering as justice comes to a small town in Mississippi in 1962. It is a timeless and universal message and will generate conversation relevant to our mission of inclusivity. Order your copy today and join us each Sunday in February at 10 am in the Pillow Room.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

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 prayer and consultation.

Guided Meditation in the Pillow Room at **6:00 pm. on Wednesdays**. If you're interested, come in comfortable clothes for this brief meditation. If you have questions, please see Vernice or Lois.

Education Hour — Join us for a study of the book *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* by Joan Chittister, **each Wednesday in February, 7—8:30 pm** in the Pillow Room.

THEOLOGY COURSE AT GETS

Theology Course at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

This spring, Garrett-Evangelical is offering a Theology course (**on Tuesday evenings, February through May**) at the Chicago Temple that will explore faithful Christian responses to the economic and ecological crises impacting individuals and societies around the world. Though the class is open to Garrett-ETS students as a regular course offering, we expect that an equal number of area clergy and laity will want to enroll.

What are pastors to preach and teach about the global economic downturn impacting parishioners' livelihoods, civic budgets, and weekly tithes and offerings? How are lay members to be faithful stewards of God's creation amidst their everyday lives at home and work? What is the hopeful witness of the Church in an age of climate change, energy challenges, and financial instability?

These are the type of questions we invite you – along with members of your finance, trustee, and 'green team' committees – to engage and help answer in a collaborative learning environment.

For more information, visit us online at www.garrett.edu/oikos.

Grace and peace, Philip A. Amerson, President, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES 2011

Announcing Broadway's Performing Arts Series 2011!

All performances are on **Friday evenings at 7:30 pm**, family friendly and followed by artist receptions!

February 11th — *Bewitched: A Valentine's Cabaret* featuring soprano Sara Maria Pardo and special guests Mark LeBeau and Danielle Scampini.

March 4th — Qiana McNary, Soprano, a national semi-finalist in the Emerging Young Artist competition, sponsored by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Qiana will present an evening of aria and art song featuring a song cycle by blind African American composer Valerie Capers.

April 29th — Oliver Camacho and Eugenia Cheng present a concert of art song by queer composers and lyricists.

May 6th — Juliet Petrus, soprano, presents *Children's Hour*, a concert of light-hearted songs for and about children in honor of Mother's Day.

We hope you can attend all of these special performances! There will be a \$10 suggested donation at the door for each concert. Proceeds will support Broadway's community outreach ministry and music program.

Please contact Sam Duplessis, Music Director, at Duplessis.Sam@gmail.com with any questions.

SUMMER SPIRIT LAKE TRIP

**Spirit Lake Nation, Devils Lake, North Dakota
June 12-18, 2011**

Once again, a team from Broadway will be heading to the Spirit Lake Dakotah Nation for a week of service, learning and relationship building with the members of the tribe and others there. If you can't travel with us, you can still be involved in preparing supplies for the team to take along. Part of our work there is with children in the Sidewalk Sunday School; we also will work on building maintenance or renovation projects of some type on the reservation.

If you're interested, let me know – watch your March newsletter for a planning meeting in the latter half of March. If you have any questions, please contact me at (224) 436-0415 or at claytonparr@mac.com. You can also find out about the trip by asking the members of last year's team: Susan Armstrong, Amy Daigler, Diana Davis, Craig Fitzgerald, Helen Nagel, MJ Grimshaw, Lois Parr, Cullen Parr.

Yours in Christ, Clayton Parr

Tribal website: <http://www.spiritlakenation.com/>

Spirit Lake Ministry Center website: <http://www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org/>

GOSPEL BY HEART

Back in October I attended a Worship Alive! workshop led by Tom Boomershine. One of the first things he mentioned was that he wanted us to tell the December 19 Gospel passage (Matthew 1:18-25) by heart in our worship services. (In the words of the workshop promo, the goal was “to enable every church to establish a ‘Scripture by Heart’ group that will recite the Scriptures by heart every week.”) My first two thoughts:

Yeah, right.

Who should play Dr. Boomershine in a movie? (My mind wanders just like anyone else’s.)

There’s not enough space to get into what changed my mind. (Two months is a lot of time to learn a lectionary passage from memory, even allowing for the inevitable “Oh, I’ll work on it later.”) Back on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, I told the Gospel story from memory for both Sunday services. During the telling for the 11:00 service, I experienced a connection with the story that I didn’t expect. In preparing to tell the story, I had understood Joseph’s isolation. He had decided how to make the best of a bad situation: quietly divorce Mary in order to save her from a possible death sentence. During the telling for the 11:00 service, I felt Joseph’s isolation for the first time. I didn’t need to distance myself from Joseph. I felt this, and I also could keep going. Unpleasant surprises, these are also part of the Good News. It’s OK to feel these not only because they’re part of the Good News, but also because the Good News continues.

More recently, back on Sunday January 16, some nudge told me in church, “You know, you probably want to tell the Gospel story again next week.” I swear, I didn’t know the text of Matthew 4:12-23 when I felt this. Since I had the free time last week, I answered the call. Over New Year’s, I’d heard / seen some professional storytellers, and I’d forgotten how physical storytelling can be. The telling of Matthew 4:12-23 is a “bigger” story, compared with the intimacy of the passage from Advent.

Is telling the Gospel from memory easy? Well, no, but it’s not as difficult as one might think. (Who said answering the call was easy?) There are various techniques that make learning it easier.

I’m hoping to get a “Gospel by Heart” group started at Broadway. I’m planning to get a class started soon, with attendance not obligating anyone to do this in a worship service. (I’m not expecting anyone else to necessarily tell the story in both services: I’m happy to do so in order to help get this started.)

One thing I love about Broadway is that, yes, a straight white guy with too much time on his hands can actively take part in worship, and his voice is but one of many. Someone asked Dr. Boomershine whether telling Scripture by Heart every week provided enough variety in worship. He responded by saying that just the different voices of different people telling the story each week provided plenty of variety. I’ve found that in living the Word, you never know how you might find connection within it. Holiness has a way of showing up in unexpected places. After all, this is how the birth of Jesus came about.

I hope you’ll join us! ~ Steve Wiegner

GAY MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP

Our gay men’s discussion group continues to be an open and affirming place for building community among the gay/queer men of the Broadway Congregation. We plan to continue our gatherings **at 7:00 pm on Tuesday nights: February 1, 8 and 22**. All gay/queer men are welcome to join us for our lively weekly discussion. During this next round of gatherings, we will have a different facilitator each week and each facilitator will choose his own topic. Past (hot) topics have included: getting to know you, sexuality and religion, coming out, vocations, and the intersection of race and sexuality.

VILLAGE PEOPLE: PLEDGE 2011

Thanks again Broadway Family for being so faithful in your pledges for this year of 2011. I know we talked a lot about money during November as we prepared to pledge, and also during December as the pledges came in. The Transition Team passed a balanced budget on January 10th, which we celebrate, but to do this we cut some items and tightened many other line items. Now we pray that every pledge which we made will be fulfilled plus more. It will soon be February and it's easy to relax and just participate in all of Broadway's wonderful ministry that is happening. However, the easiest way to fulfill our pledges is to be faithful and budget 1/12th or more of our pledge each month. The winter months have heavy heat and light bills, and we have snow removal bills so these are heavy expenditure months.

Thanks again and let us continue to share so that Broadway can grow and share its ministry.

Charolette Lill, 2010 Financial Secretary



You can also now donate online! Simply go to our website and click on the "Donate" button on the home page. Please contact the office with any questions.

EMPOWERING ALL IN MINISTRY

We had a successful Church/Charge Conference at the end of January! We will hold a Ministry Fair on **Sunday, February 13**, (with ethnic food provided by the People of Color Discussion Group in celebration of Black History Month!) and then hold a Congregational Gathering on **Sunday, March 13** to affirm and celebrate those who've felt called to ministry in our new model. More information, including an overview of what was presented at the January 30th meeting, is on our website under "Empowering All in Ministry."

STEPS FOR EQUALITY

Myths About Gay and Lesbian People #1-The Bible condemns homosexuality.

According to John Boswell in *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*, "the word 'homosexual' does not occur in the Bible: no text or manuscript, Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, or Aramaic, contains such a word." (92) In our modern translations of the Bible, there is a set of behaviors which has been labeled "homosexual", however, research clearly shows that these few biblical passages bear no resemblance to what we understand today as same-gender orientation or the relationship shared by two loving, committed adults. Furthermore, Jesus was silent on the subject of homosexuality. His ministry was one of welcome & acceptance, not condemnation. The Bible is most concerned about proper treatment of others & opposes cruelty, exploitation & abuse among all people — heterosexual & homosexual, alike.

Sources: rmnetwork.org and [PFLAG — pflag.org](http://PFLAG.org)

~ Contributed by Dee, Emily, and Helen

MEET BISHOP SCHNASE!

Coming February 5th...meet Bishop Schnase! Many of us at Broadway found our 2010 study of Bishop Schnase's "fruitful practices" both enriching and challenging. Bishop Robert Schnase, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Laity Convocation.

Northern Illinois Conference Laity Convocation is set for February 5, 2011 in Sycamore.

Saturday, February 5, 2011, at Sycamore UMC (160 Johnson Ave, Sycamore, IL 60178)

HISTORICAL NOTE

We seem to be continuing this tradition of lively communication

"Results" (excerpt) from *Church News*, February 1913

On Sunday evening, February 2, the church auditorium was filled to its capacity to hear statements of the different church organizations. The pulpit was converted to a speaker's platform, from whence the reports of different societies [were given] amid smiles and nervous heart throbs. Mrs. Thorpe spoke of the Junior League. Mrs. McMonies spoke of the Woman's Home Missionary Society. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was represented by Mr. Jillich and the Ladies' Aid by Mrs. Oetting. The reports were spicy and to the points. Colonel Eyer enumerated the Church finances, and the pastor reviewed the work of the church as a whole.

The last number of the program was treated by Mr. Willott. He mentioned the work of the bible classes, its flaws, strengths and successes. The meeting was pronounced a success, since all the facts of the church were brought out and given to the people, open and above board and no soft pedal was used.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hyning, Church Historian

March Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **March 2011** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, February 20**. 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.



The Broadway

February 2011

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