



Broadway
United Methodist Church



INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

The Broadway — August 2011

Pastor's Paragraphs	1
Vernice's View	2
Sow Within Us!	2
Kevin's Korner	3
August Mission Minute	4
Computer Classes	4
Spiritually Positive	5
Gay Men's Discussion Group	5
Spirituality Group	5
Gay Softball World Series	5
Choir Begins!	6
Performing Arts Series	6
Social Media	6
Sunday Adult Education Hour	7
Wednesday Night Live!	7
Multicultural Seminar	7
Save the Dates!	8
Holy Unions at Broadway	8
Lakeview Festival of the Arts	9
Time for the Cookbook!	10
Chomp and Chat	10
Steps for Equality	11
Historical Note	11

The Pastor's Paragraphs

Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. But if you're not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe – some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them – then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong.

~ Romans 14:21-23 (The Message)

This week I did a spontaneous-summer-kind of thing: Cullen and I got in the car at dawn and drove two hours to have brunch with my brother Phil and his wife Amy while they were visiting the beach in southwest Michigan.

Drive a total of four hours for a three hour visit? Stay late a couple nights to get work finished? Some would say I'm a lunatic.

But here's why I spent the money on gas and spent the time on the trip: relationships matter.

It's been a year since I've seen my brother and his wife, and we need each other. This brother is the one closest to me in age, the one with whom I've had the most in common and with whom I've shared the most in carrying the family DNA that struggles with mental illness. Having brunch and coffee, looking at some art, and sticking our feet in the sand and surf may not seem like much. But it's the talking and hugging that happen when we get together and remember our shared history: the day Daddy pulled Phil out of the riptide; the teacher's union clubhouse where we used to run the dunes; the ways we've lifted one another out of the pit and learned to laugh again.

It's so worth the investment of a little fuel and some time. It's such a reminder that my action must follow my heart – just as Paul writes to the churches at Rome. Paul writes to people he's never met to say something about a God whose love is so gracious that it transforms the way Paul himself lives...and then Paul writes to invite those who've known that grace and love to live the way they've been loved, cultivating their relationship with God and with one another.

Yes: relationships matter. And they're worth what it takes. The sand in my shoes will tell you so.



Living from the heart,

Lois ⁺

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

Vernice's View

37 days to wake up. That is the beginning of Patti Digh's book *Life is a Verb*, one of our Sunday Morning Education Hour studies for August and September.

I had an opportunity to meet Patti Digh. She is such an interesting and down to earth woman. The premise of her book is to learn to live life intentionally and to the fullest, "before it is too late." She claims six practices for living more intentionally: intensity, inclusion, integrity, intimacy, intuition and intention. Her book leads us through each of the practices by telling a story, then moving from story to challenge. She says, "to live deeper, more meaningful lives, we have to practice. The challenges are designed to be things you can dip into, try out and practice overtime." She helps us tell our story and practice the challenges over 37 days. She chooses 37 days because of an experience with her stepfather, Boyce. From the day he was diagnosed with lung cancer to the day he died was 37 days. So she asked herself, "What would I be doing today if I only had thirty-seven days to live?" She says what is most important is to live each individual, glorious day with more intention.

I want to leave with you one challenge just to give you a flavor of what to expect from the study. The title of the chapter is "Redefine Normal" and the challenge question is "who gets to decide what normal is?" She says, "Ignorance breeds fear breeds avoidance breeds misunderstanding breeds stereotypes breeds prejudice breeds hatred breeds violence. Stop the cycle."

I invite you to this study, facilitated by our own Elina Rodriguez, Sunday mornings at 10am. Please join us. This book will change your life.



In Truth and Justice,
Vernice

SOW WITHIN US!

Our summer worship theme this year is "Sow Within Us!" The motivation behind this theme comes from the poem "Living Hearts" by Charles Singer and Albert Hari, adapted below:

*Sower of living hearts,
sower of tenderness,
sower of courage,
sower of service,
sower of prayer,
sower of light.
God,
sow within us!*

*Sower of gifts,
sower of forgiveness,
sower of faith,
sower of joy,
sower of life,
sower of the Beatitudes.
God, sow
in the hearts of all people!*

*Even if we are hard
as stones,
be patient with us!
Your Good News
will manage to slip
between the tight cracks
in our rock and will
grow into giant sheaves
of Good News!*

Kevin's Korner

August 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)



Dear Broadway friends;

As the summer months pass, we come again to the anniversary of this column's start. Nine years ago, the first "Kevin's Korner" in August 2002 told the July travelogue that brought Mike Shear and me from our Chicago church community to our new and undefined ministry in the west.

At this nine-year point, Bloom's ministries are growing and unfolding. Even as some practices and activities feel traditional, we have new opportunities. We are adding the dimension of "spiritual direction" as a retired UCC minister deepens her relationship with Bloom. Our Open Leadership Team voted last month to "authorize" her spiritual direction practice as a ministry of Bloom. (Do we really "get it" that a body that did not exist nine years ago recently authorized a ministry? Wow!) In another key ministry for Bloom, we have some new musical plans in the works. In order to enhance our presence and strengthen our identity, we are looking to create a new arrangement for our office and meeting locations. We are glad to join with the God of Isaiah in doing new things.

In addition to Sunday morning services as a weekly expectation, our fairly new Thursday night "BloomBibleBites" is getting established as another dependable weekly ministry. Our weekly email newsletter evolves. It is considered by some to be the best part of our ongoing outreach. We are in progress to continue our annual August tradition of assembling 45 backpacks for elementary students referred by our school district. So, our mission includes the new, the ongoing, the growing and the traditional.

In activities outside the local church, Rev. Kev will continue in a second year as a member of our UCC area association (like a UMC district) as a member of the executive committee. Recently, one of our Bloomers was elected to our Southern California Nevada Conference board of directors. We have three other Bloomers serving on conference committees. It looks like at least four of us will travel to Tucson in October for the Church Within A Church Movement's second Extraordinary Ordination celebration. Again let's note: nine years ago we did not exist.

In the community, Palm Springs started a process to update zoning laws to religious activities beyond purpose-built church buildings and bring language into a more inclusive frame – aligning with federal guidelines. This is an opportunity for and a threat to religious groups in town. There is a movement by the local planning commission to put more control on where ministries can function and increase costs associated with the permit process. Fortunately, the city council and staff are open to feedback from the religious community. At the invitation of the director of the planning department, Rev. Kev is working with a regional faith-based organizing group to formulate a community group to work on these issues.

August brings an Amtrak vacation for Rev. Kev and Mike to Portland and Seattle on the "Coast Starlight" and "Cascades" train routes. A boating day-trip from Seattle to Victoria is planned, too. Later in the month, a few days in Los Angeles to visit the Getty Museum for the first time is another way we are going to beat the heat and renew our strengths.

Finally, I repeat what I often say: **Thank you!** You commissioned Mike and me to this ministry nine years ago last June and you help us survive financially with your continued support. We love visiting with you for Mission Minute Sunday and having Broadway folks turn up for a Bloom Sunday morning. There are years ahead for Bloom. Let's hope that the future is a continuation of the progress we've made with God's help so far.

Please go to [Bloom's Web site](#) and sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter, "**BloomNotes.**" And do keep all of us in your prayers. We do you.

Peace be with you, Rev. Kev and Mike Shear

AUGUST MISSION MINUTE

Our August Mission Minute is the Southern Poverty Law Center.



SPLC is a nonprofit civil rights organization founded in 1971, based in Montgomery, AL, with offices in several southern cities. Founded by civil rights lawyers Morris Dees and Joseph Levin, Jr., their first president was civil rights activist Julian Bond. Their name may be misleading since their scope is nationwide, and their focus is to relentlessly fight against hatred and bigotry and seek justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education and other forms of advocacy, SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity become reality. Their three-pronged strategy to battle racial and social injustice includes:

- * Tracking the activities of hate groups and domestic terrorists across America and launching innovative lawsuits that seek to destroy networks of radical extremists;
- * Using the courts and other forms of advocacy to win systemic reforms on behalf of victims of bigotry and discrimination (they have won numerous landmark legal victories);
- * Providing educators with free resources that teach school children to reject hate, embrace diversity and respect differences.

Their fight against hatred and extremism includes a wider vision promoting justice for exploited immigrant workers, abused prison inmates, disabled children, and other victims of discrimination. A cornerstone of their mission is distributing their Teaching Tolerance program in our nation's schools, free of charge. The Teaching Tolerance program includes documentary films, books, lesson plans and other materials that promote tolerance and respect.

More information can be found at <http://www.splcenter.org>.

Our Mission Minute Sunday is August 14, but you can donate throughout the month – make checks out to Broadway and designate your check or envelope “SPLC.” You can also donate [online](#).

COMPUTER CLASSES

Join Online Education Solutions at Broadway United Methodist Church for three week computer workshop sessions. The Computer Café is open the following **Saturdays from 2:30-3:30 pm**:

- * **August 6, 13, 20 — Word**
- * September 10, 17, 24 — Excel
- * October 8, 15, 22 — Social Media and Marketing Online

All software used in the workshop is free and available online.

To register for workshops, please email Vincent at viggins@OnlineEducationSolutions.org or call 773-450-6706. More information is available on Broadway's website under “resources” then “misc.”

SPIRITUALLY POSITIVE

A Confidential HIV/AIDS Support Group. Living with HIV/AIDS can be a tough life to lead, especially if you are 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!

The next two meetings are set for **Tuesdays, August 9 and 23, from 6 to 7 pm**. For more information or to participate in the planning you can contact Victor Poncé at: spirituallypositive@gmail.com.

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: August 9, 23, 30**. All gay/queer men are welcome to join us for our lively weekly discussion. Questions? Contact Victor Poncé at maq32nus@gmail.com.

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Spirituality Group will not be meeting in August. If you have any questions, please call Irene Bourgeois at 312-513-0009.

GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES

My name is John Keathley and I am writing on behalf of the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) 2011. Working in coordination with the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), this year Chicago plays Host to the 35th Annual Gay Softball World Series this summer **August 29 – September 3**. The World Series will bring more than 4000 participants and fans to Chicago from nearly 40 cities across North America.

In support of the community, we are asking for your assistance. Currently we are seeking volunteers for various fundraising events leading up to and during the World Series. Your support, in any capacity, would be greatly appreciated. If any one is able to give us a few hours of their time, please sign up in our volunteer database (Click on the volunteer tab on our website) and register for one or more of our events. We'll keep volunteers apprised as new activities are posted. I, the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) 2011, and North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) would be greatly honored to have your support. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information please visit our website: [GSWS 2011](http://GSWS2011.com)

CHOIR BEGINS!



Announcing BUMC's 2011-2012 Choir Season!

Season Kick-Off party and our first brief rehearsal will be at **7:00 pm on Thursday, August 25th**. At this meeting we will welcome new singers, discuss the upcoming year and begin work on a piece specially commissioned for Broadway's September 11th service. We'll also be bringing out some old favorites to prepare for a performance at the Lakeview Arts Festival!

Questions? Please contact Sam Duplessis, Broadway's Director of Music and Worship Arts, either in person or by email at Duplessis.Sam@gmail.com.

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

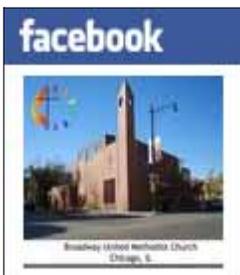
Broadway Performing Arts Series 2011-2012 committee opportunities!

- * Did you enjoy the BUMC PAS this spring?
- * Did you miss some of the concerts and hope to get more involved this year?
- * Do you love doing behind the scenes work putting together community events?
- * Then sign up for the BUMC Performing Arts Series 2011-2012 Committee!

The committee will meet every two weeks throughout September and October to finalize the performance roster, prepare outreach and advertisement, divide responsibilities for event execution and brainstorm how to make this year even better than the last!

If interested, please contact Sam Duplessis, Broadway's Director of Music and Worship Arts, either in person or by email at Duplessis.Sam@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Are you a **Facebook** Fanatic? Are you a **Twitter** Ambassador? Are you the Mayor of Starbucks on the corner of Broadway and Roscoe? If so, Broadway needs your help! We want to get the word out about all that is happening at Broadway, and we can strengthen our network and communications through social media tools! Many of you already have a strong online presence, so you can help us make Broadway to viral! Please Tweet about upcoming events. Or post a message to your Facebook wall about the Youth Lounge. When you're here, check in on **Foursquare**! Let your friends know what is going on here! If you have questions, see Sarah Conner-Smith, email her at sarahconner@gmail.com or tweet at her [@sarahconner](https://twitter.com/sarahconner).

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ChicagoBUMC>

Twitter: [@ChicagoBUMC](https://twitter.com/ChicagoBUMC)

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

Adult Education I: ***Ephesians*** Adult Ed I is studying the letter to the Ephesians. This letter sets out the privileges of being called as Christians, and the tools God has provided to allow us to prosper as Christians in a sometimes hostile secular world. **Join us at 9:50 am each Sunday.**

Adult Education II: ***Life is a Verb: 37 Days to Wake Up, Be Mindful, and Live Intentionally*** by Patti Digh.

In October 2003, Patti Digh's stepfather was diagnosed with lung cancer. He died 37 days later. The timeframe made an impression on her. What emerged was a commitment to ask herself every morning: What would I be doing today if I had only 37 days left to live? The answers changed her life and led to this new kind of book. Part meditation, part how-to guide, part memoir, *Life is a Verb* is all heart. Within these pages—enhanced by original artwork and wide, inviting margins ready to be written in—Digh identifies six core practices to jump-start a meaningful life: Say Yes, Trust Yourself, Slow Down, Be Generous, Speak Up, and Love More. Within this framework she supplies 37 edgy, funny, and literary life stories, each followed by a “do it now” 10-minute exercise as well as a practice to try for 37 days—and perhaps the rest of your life. Broadway's study of this book will be facilitated by Elina Rodriguez. **Sundays at 10:00 am in August and September.**

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: *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Join us for a lively discussion as we listen to what Barbara Brown Taylor calls the “Altar in the World.” Discover the sacred in all things and places surrounding you. Books can be purchased online at Amazon. **Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.**

MULTICULTURAL SEMINAR

Saturday, August 20, 10 am to 1 pm

Our Multicultural Seminar Series continues as we show the last segment of the film *The Color of Fear*; discussion follows and the treats are plentiful!

Please join us — and bring a friend!

SAVE THE DATES!

On **Sunday, October 9**, we'll celebrate National Coming Out Day with preacher Rev. David Weekley (read about his memoir of ftm transition at <http://neverblendin.wordpress.com/2011/02/26/in-from-the-wilderness/>)

Co-sponsored by Broadway and Church Within A Church!

November 13, 2011, Broadway's Fair Trade and Local Market Day

Do you like to sew, knit, paint? Do you entertain friends with songs and instruments? Join us November 13th for our Second Festival In The Global Village Market day. For more information, to volunteer, or to host a table, contact Paula Roderick at fairjust@sbcglobal.net.

HOLY UNIONS AT BROADWAY

Currently, it is violation of current United Methodist Church "law" for an ordained UMC minister to marry a same-sex couple. Additionally, it is a violation of church "law" for us to allow same-sex couples to exchange marriage vows in our sanctuary. Since 2001, Broadway's policy about holy unions (opposite-sex and same-sex couples alike) has been that we believe that the couple marries themselves, and the pastor/s and gathered community witness the exchange of vows off-site. The marriage is then celebrated with the community in worship in the sanctuary. In fairness to and in solidarity with LGBTQ members of our community, this decision was made to celebrate holy unions in this way by congregational vote.

In light of the new civil unions law in Illinois, it may be time for us to change our policy and further challenge the UMC law regarding same-sex holy unions. The Co-Lay Leaders have agreed to bring the vote about holy unions again to the congregation. **This fall, we will hold a community discussion and election on the question of whether or not Broadway will again open its doors to *ALL* couples to be married by the pastors in the church sanctuary.** More information about this meeting will be forthcoming.

Additionally, the congregation may soon have the opportunity to participate in the growing movement among laity to support same-gender holy unions in the United Methodist Church. Pastors Vernice and Lois will share this information as it becomes available.

Please contact the pastors or members of the Co-Lay Leaders Team for more information.



LAKEVIEW EAST FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in volunteering
for one of several
four (4) hour shifts, please call the
Office Manager at 773-348-8608 or
email:

OFFICEMANAGER@LAKEVIEWEAST.COM



Sept. 10 & 11
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sunday 10am-5pm

Volunteers on Saturday and Sunday can be greeters, pass out flyers and festival brochures, or booth sitters who provide information. Volunteers on Friday will help the artists unloading their items and setting up. The Festival will be held on Broadway between Roscoe and Belmont. Festival T-Shirt provided!

TIME FOR THE COOKBOOK!

We're now collecting recipes for The Broadway Cookbook and we're waiting to hear from you! Help us create a wonderful recipe/story book jam-packed with recipes, stories and pictures of Broadway.

Choose one or more of the following categories. Send or give us recipes for dishes you usually bring, or are appropriate for:

- Coffee Hour (cookies, muffins, breads)
- Bible Study Snacks (appetizers, desserts, beverages)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (soups, chili, corn bread, desserts)
- Pot Luck Dishes (salads, casseroles, side dishes, desserts)
- Vegetarian and Vegan Dishes
- Casseroles for the Homebound
- Garden Recipes (using products from the garden)
- Youth Lounge

Type if possible or neatly print in ink. One recipe per page. Send or give your recipes to Fran Markwardt, franmarkw@att.net, or Dee Dorsey, missdeecj@sbcglobal.net.

Include: Category, Recipe Title, Your Name. If there is something special about your recipe -- for example, who gave it to you, it was your mother's favorite, etc., include that too.

Use abbreviations: pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.

Show number of servings.

CHOMP AND CHAT

We would like to extend an invitation to the next Chomp and Chat on **August 14 after the 11:00 service** in Friendship Hall.

Please bring your choice of one of the following to share with our community of friends:

- * side dish,
- * veggie tray,
- * chips,
- * beverage or
- * dessert.



We look forward to seeing you there. Any questions contact Fran Markwardt at franmarkw@att.net or Diana Davis at 773-960-9142. All are welcome!

STEPS FOR EQUALITY

Myth #5: "Homosexual practice is a sin"

Our UM *Book of Discipline* affirms that "sexuality is God's good gift to all persons." (161) Indeed it is a good gift because it arises from our God-given capacity to love others. Homosexuality, like heterosexuality, is morally neutral. And yet, regarding LGBT people, an unfair distinction is often made between being & practice. "It's okay if you're gay. Just don't act gay." This is an unreasonable & unjust demand which is not made of heterosexuals. It is dis-integrating & wounding to require LGBT people to separate flesh from spirit, the truth they know from the truth they live, their being from their doing.

Contributors: Dee, Emily, Helen

HISTORICAL NOTE

We have some super vocal ensembles; do we have the material for a similar Broadway-based instrumental group?

"Sunday School" (excerpt) from *Broadway Methodist*, March 1924

Another dream has been realized. We have a real orchestra of seven pieces, which, on its first appearance, performed like a veteran organization. It is a great addition to our service, and we urge you all to come out and enjoy a treat by hearing them play. Miss Gorham, who plays violin, is the leader; the other members are Misses Wells and Yoars, violins; Miss Price and Albert Farrar, saxophones; Mr. Farrar, cornet; Mr. Brown, clarinet, and Mrs. Farrar, piano. More power to them!

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

DONATE

You can 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.

September Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **September 2011** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, August 28th**. 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

August 2011

Pastor: **Rev. Lois McCullen Parr**
gizhilois@yahoo.com

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

Director of Music & Worship Arts: **Samuel-Hilaire Duplessis**
Duplessis.Sam@gmail.com

Student Pastor: **Benjamin Bower**
Benjamin.Bower@garrett.edu

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

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

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

www.broadwaychurchchicago.org

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