



Broadway
United Methodist Church



The Broadway — March 2012

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Reflections from the Pastors

Vernice: As the two identity caucuses met to begin discussing Black History Month, we could not have known or planned for the tremendous impact this month has made on our community. I am still trying to figure out and reflect on the many ways my life has changed as a result of this faithful step of "making real" our understanding, as a community, of what it means to be inclusive. As we planned for, what we thought of as possible pushbacks and how we might respond, we did not consider the overwhelming success that we are experiencing from the month. We embodied Jesus' ministry and Gospel! I'm just so excited about that and feel a bit challenged about how we might continue to do that in an authentic way; a way that makes church relevant and meaningful for everyone; a way that is inviting for people who have given up on all the religious stuff. We are poised at the brink of new life and what a time to name that as we begin our Lenten Journey. I know that you are doing a good deal of reflecting as well. What has been your experience this past month?

Lois: I find myself describing to people that, in the process of dismantling racism, we dismantled Worship, too...and in ways that have been enormously powerful and freeing. As pastor, my role from week to week in planning and preparing Worship is one where I feel responsible for what will happen during Sunday morning's gatherings – I do think that's part of my call, to help lead that time. *And:* the journey this month has opened up for me the way in which that sense of responsibility is also racially-bound – that is to say: as a white person, I am often driven by a sense that I need to control things, that I need everything to "work" (actually, the white person's disease is that we believe things are supposed to be "perfect"). That kind of thinking is terribly restrictive, actually, and the huge epiphany for me this month has been that, in letting go, there has been much more room for the Spirit to act. While I, too, am still processing and experiencing the significance of this month at Broadway, I'm aware that this time has been a deepening of the heart of *what it is to trust God and one another*. This month has been a spiritual awakening for me as a white person, and as someone identified as a "leader."

V: This month also reminds me of the history of our congregation. As I think about our immediate past I want to acknowledge the long and painful journey of getting to this time. We lost some people along the way. There were some who were unjustly treated and I include myself in that number, yet I know in my heart that we could

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("Reflections from the Pastors" continued from page 1...)

not have gotten to this place without that rough, very sad time. I believe it is faithful to do the hard work around inclusivity, and race, though it be a difficult topic, is an important part of that work. A lot of this happened before you got here, but I'm sure you recognized how wounded we were when you arrived.

L: Definitely. And this month I also hurt others and shared the pain of that. As you've said – we've got a book to write about the experiences of Broadway's journey as an anti-racist community. The behind-the-scenes of this month has been as instructive to me as Sunday mornings – and the opportunity where I learned most keenly about how I abuse my power as a white person without even realizing I'm doing it.

One of the things I treasure about Broadway is our willingness to speak plainly about pain. In my first year here, I tried to be present to hear from folks about the pain they'd experienced and the ways the congregation was still wounded and tender. I do think we've found many ways to find healing and to restore a sense of emotional health to the community. Even so, you're right – some people we love are no longer walking with us in this journey, and that means we also experience grief and loss. Our faith story is this same story, over and over again: in traditional liturgy we say, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again," and there's a way in which that spiritual language claims our hope of resurrection. We know death and loss, and we make our way through it to find the possibility of new life.

V: As I continue to reflect there are several powerful learnings that I would like to share. In our bulletin every week we print "Ministers: All the people." That statement implies that all of us, ordained and lay, are ministers, an integral part of the worship experience as well as co-creators with God. It had little meaning for me until February. At the combined caucus meetings, you and I empowered the teams to create and implement all aspects of the services for February. I was blown away at the excitement and commitment, as well as the creativity of the team members as they took seriously their charge. They took us at our word and felt totally empowered to write liturgy, suggest music, and even to tell us what supportive role they needed us in. I am so impressed with what the teams came up with, from the theme, to the environment, to the sermon time. It was a reminder that liturgy is defined as "the work of the people" not just the pastors.

L: You know, we spent the last couple of years dismantling & re-forming our organization and structure here, and I kept quoting the scripture that says our role as pastors is to "equip the saints for ministry" – a way to empower people so that we become what one writer calls "the unnecessary pastor." Our flower model for our structure set about to eliminate hierarchy in church organization, but that empowerment became REAL for me, too, in the work of these planning teams and the expressions of Worship we've had this month. Because Worship is the center of our life together, our goal to "make it real" has really shaped us as a community through this experience – bringing the community together in a profoundly different way. For me, specifically, as pastor, I've experienced how meaningful it is to let go and get out of the way.

V: I totally agree. Another aspect that I have taken away from this month, is how I understand my role as pastor. I've always believed that pastors should lead from within. I use Jesus as the model for that. As Jesus taught, as he healed, he did so not from a far off place but in the midst of the people, very much invested and connected. Sitting with the congregation really gave me a different perspective of doing ministry and of being community. And it gave me an opportunity to worship in a unique way. Lois you have a name for that, "servant ministry," right?

L: Right. This question gets asked to people who are being ordained: "how does Jesus model 'servant leadership' in his ministry?" A common answer is to look at the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet, his taking an unexpected role of serving the people who are *following* him. That image is such a power-

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Kevin's Korner

March 2012

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;

March means it's time for Bloom's 3rd Annual Spring Fling Cabaret and Silent Auction Fundraiser. This is a major event that is becoming part of the desert's seasonal calendar. We are so grateful for the musical volunteers who donate their time and talents to support Bloom. Here's all the info:

Stellar Cabaret Evening and Silent Auction March 2

Palm Springs, California – February 1, 2012 – Rarely does the opportunity come along to see 9 of the Coachella Valley's most talented cabaret performers all in the same night. But that opportunity is yours on Friday, March 2 from 6 to 9 pm at The Hilton Palm Springs, Plaza Ballroom, 400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way. This unique gathering of talent comes together as volunteers to raise funds for Bloom in the Desert Ministries, a United Church of Christ and Reconciling Methodist Congregation here in the Coachella Valley.

Performers for this benefit gathering include Charlie Creasy, musical director; Vickie Knight, Rocky Blumhagen, Keisha D, Jerome Elliott, Charles Herrera, Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer, Christian Chalifour, and Bruce Mangum.

In addition to cabaret entertainment and a silent auction featuring a donated full-length mink coat, McCallum tickets and air travel; hors-d'oeuvres coffee and tea will be served and a full cash bar will be available.

This outstanding collection of entertainers brings a diverse and extraordinary array of experience and talent including **Vickie Knight**, the first female featured vocalist at The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, has made a name for herself starring in many Valley Productions and one-women shows and is a Desert Theater League Award winner. **Charlie Creasy**, one of the premier pianists and composers in the Valley has premiered several compositions with the Desert Winds Freedom Band. **Rocky Blumhagen**, from the Bay Area, released his latest CD entitled "Easy to Love" with the Portland Chamber Orchestra. **Keisha D**, is one of the leading cabaret performers in the Valley. **Jerome Elliott**, a Palm Springs based singer/actor has been appearing in a number of one-man shows all over Southern California and has been nominated seven times for his cabaret and theater performances by the Desert Theatre League. **Charles Herrera**, a veteran performer has been charming audiences for almost 30 years on stage in film and recordings. A diverse performer he is a master of pop, operas, Broadway, folk and rock. **Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer** In June 2012, Elaine joined cabaret crooner Rocky Blumhagen and the Portland Chamber Orchestra at the Siletz Music Festival in Oregon for the Jack Moore-designed show, "A Party with Comden & Green," with arrangements by Music Director Charlie Creasy. **Christian Chalifour**, an award winning harpist and former orchestra conductor for the Coachella Valley Symphony and Buddy Rogers Youth Symphony, and **Bruce Mangum**, one of the Valley's leading pianists and accompanist leads music at Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church and is the accompanist for Caballeros, the Gay Men's Chorus of Palm Springs and had produced a number of CDs.

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("Reflections from the Pastors" continued from page 2...)

-ful, physical one – and it's that kind of embodiment I've experienced this month as you and Ben and I have been seated with the people, as we've responded to each of the planning teams by *waiting* for them to let us know what they'd like us to offer. Personally, to sit with Clayton in Worship (which I haven't done since before I went to Seminary) and to – this may sound silly – wear jeans...it's the most authentic way for me to be present as Lois, and I'm so grateful for the way the planning teams asked us to do this. We've discovered far more than we ever imagined. Like Scripture says: "God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! God does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, the Spirit deeply and gently within us" (Ephesians 3:20-21, *The Message*).

V: There is so much to think about and process yet there is one thing I know for sure, it is crucial that we find a way to capture what was most meaningful for the congregation and continue to make the worship experience as real as we possibly can. There is so much excitement and energy I feel strongly that this is the time to keep moving, listening for God to direct us as we take next steps. One thing I've been praying about and would like to see implemented is a lay Sunday once a month. If we can continue the momentum from February and create new ways of understanding worship it would not only be liturgically sound but also challenging and inspirational. That combination of challenge and inspiration, I believe, is what keeps us growing and moving toward wholeness. It also gives us courage and energy for outreach. This is an exciting time! I have hope as we LIVE words like multi-cultural, inclusive and progressive. We have a real opportunity, As Dr. King reminds us, to "be the headlights and not the tail-lights." I LOVE IT!!!

("Kevin's Korner" continued from page 3...)

The 3rd Annual Spring Fling and Silent Auction benefits Bloom in the Desert Ministries and builds on the past two amazing years of support. Soon Bloom will be mark 9 years of ministry in the Valley, celebrating the creation of community that embraces diversity, fellowship and service. Bloom's members' and friends' fundraising goal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of this small and vital, liberal Protestant church.

Bloom is very involved in the community by making 1,000 sandwiches weekly for homeless working poor and elderly poor through Well in the Desert. Bloom provides backpacks and school supplies each school year for dozens of needy children referred by Palm Springs Unified School District. Food and Toiletry items are collected weekly to support Food Now. Bloom is also well known as a supporter of marriage equality, anti-racism, and anti-bullying. The church was founded as an open and affirming, peace with justice congregation.

Bloom in the Desert's motto is: "God wants you to think for yourself and live for others."

Hope you can come "Fling" with us someday! Now, let's stay in touch. Please "Like" us on Facebook and go to [Bloom's Web site](#) to 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

LENT / EASTER

Lent...

If you're not familiar with it, Lent is the forty-day season preceding Easter. Forty days mimics Biblical stories about the Hebrews wandering in the wilderness and Jesus retreating to the desert before beginning his active ministry. Lent is usually considered a time of conversion, of repentance (turning back to God if you've turned away), and self-reflection.

Richard Rohr suggests that we read the Bible and gather as community not to learn about God, but to find an encounter between the soul and God. He suggests that "your image of God creates you" – a powerful reminder that we are invited to think about who God is for and with us.

What do we believe:

Is God creator or judge?

Is God present or far away?

Does God seek us or do we seek God?

Lent invites us to ask questions like these, that we might encounter the God who loves us unconditionally, that we may find a new way to understand ourselves as "beloved."

Lent culminates in the experiences of Holy Week, the stories we hear again of Jesus' ministry, his arrest and death, and the loss his followers feel as they bury him. We always hear these stories knowing something the disciples didn't know: that the power of God is greater than death and Easter morning would reveal a resurrection.

Keep these dates on your calendar as we head into the turning of the season and the spring of new life...

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 1

Maundy Thursday: April 6

Good Friday: April 7

Easter Sunday: April 8



CHOMP 'N CHAT

What in the world is Chomp 'n Chat? The idea behind Chomp 'n Chat is to make it convenient for people to stop for a few minutes after the Sunday service to meet other folks, sit down and talk with them and get to know them, while enjoying a potluck meal. It's meant to be a little longer than the usual coffee time when we stand around with our coats on, coffee cups in hand, and greet people on our way out the door.

We would like Chomp 'n Chat to have an informal feeling, almost as if on the spur of the moment we decided "Oh, let's stop and sit down to chat for a while. We can nibble on this nice food while we talk." However, we need to do a little more planning, or it would never happen. There needs to be a definite time, tables and chairs need to be set up, and there needs to be some food!

Chomp 'n Chat happens the second Sunday of every month. (This month that is Sunday, March 11th). People bring something for the potluck, a casserole dish, a vegetable dish, a salad, dessert, some fruit, bread or rolls, soft drinks – enough for six to eight servings. If possible, food has to be ready to be served because our kitchen is too small to prepare things. However, we do have ovens to keep food warm.

What if you forget to bring something? Usually there's more than enough food for everybody – but we'll gladly share what we have if we're a little short. You can also make a cash contribution. We need money for paper plates, plastic utensils and napkins. We'll accumulate any extra cash and splurge on fried chicken or some other special treat when we have enough.

Wow you might say! That's a lot of stuff to think about for a "simple Chomp 'n Chat!" You're right – and we haven't even mentioned "Cleaning Up!" That's why we decided we should set up a little committee to help with the things that need to be done. Actually it's a lot of fun! If you would like to be one of the helpers, please let one of us know. Thanks!

Diana Davis, davis.diana72@gmail.com, 773-960-9142

Fran Markwardt, franmarkw@att.net, 773-868-1630



**Celebrating our
journey going
deeper as a
community during
Black History Month:
"making it real"
in 2012!**

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

“Exploring the Gospels” Bible Study — Sundays at 10 am

Come in early for the 11 o'clock service, or stay late after the 8:45 service for our relaxed and informal look at the Gospels! We will gather together to read and discuss the Gospels to discover what makes each one unique. Each Gospel contains a different perspective on the life and ministry of Jesus, which helps to shape our understanding of who Jesus is. We'll be looking at the birth stories, the miracles, parables, death, resurrection, and more!

Come join us in the Pillow Room **through March 25th**.

Supplies needed: a Bible (if you need one, please ask!) Led by Student Pastor Ben Bower.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Come for a relaxed, informal Bible study – no homework required! We read together and discuss what we're learning about God and God's people. Supplies needed: a Bible (if you need one, please ask!).

Led by Student Pastor Ben Bower. **Mondays, 10:30 am—12:00 noon in the Wesley Room @ Broadway.**

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:

Lenten Study: *It's Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back* by Ray Buckley. In every culture and time, persons of faith, of all ages, have summoned trials and tribulations to find the endurance and strength to "dance". They have danced with the weight of the world upon their shoulders, sustained by God and others dancing near them. *Hard to Dance with the Devil on your Back* is a seven session Lenten study that looks at the transcendent struggle in the lives of believers, while helping us enter the continuously crumbling world surrounding Jesus and the disciples in the days preceding Easter. **Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm beginning March 7th and ending March 28th**, in the pillow room for this exciting, reflective study and discussion lead by our student pastor Ben Bower. Books are available for purchase in the office. (Don't let the cost of the book prevent you from participating — contact one of the pastors.)

MARCH MISSION MINUTE

March Mission Minute: Lakeview Pantry



Founded in 1970, Lakeview Pantry is a non-profit organization with the mission of eliminating hunger in Lakeview. LVP provides food to hungry people and strives to increase the independence of clients through self help initiatives. They focus on specific client issues that lead to food insecurity such as unemployment and housing instability, while striving to raise community awareness of poverty and its solutions. From two locations six days a week, LVP distributes over one million pounds of **food, personal hygiene products, and pet food** each year to individuals in need in the Lakeview community. They have weekend and evening hours to accommodate working families, as well as a home delivery program serving homebound elderly and disabled people. Less than 5% of their funding comes from government sources, 60% comes from individuals. The rest comes from local businesses, philanthropic organizations, and religious communities like Broadway. LVP's mission could not be accomplished without the work of their 400 volunteers.

Many thanks to Broadway's Theo Lambos, a regular Pantry volunteer who delivers our monthly food donations to the Pantry from the basket placed at the altar each Communion (first) Sunday of the month.

Let's give to this worthy organization!

March's Mission Minute Sunday is **March 11**. However, you can make donations to Lakeview Pantry 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 March Mission Minute.)

TRANSCENDENCE

Transcendence at Broadway!!!

Mondays from 6-7 pm, February 13th — April 2nd, 2012

This study is a basic introduction to the concept of gender and how it relates to the church and the world. This study was designed for congregations just starting out in the exploration of gender but as it is in trial phase any one is welcome to come and share their thoughts and opinions. Shells Stephens wrote this bible study, as a part of his internship with RMN, in the hopes that it would serve as a ground between secular and sacred in the discussion of gender in the church. The reconciling ministries intern, Shells Stephens, will lead the study. Shells Stephens is a 2nd year masters of theological studies student with a focus in religion and personality. Shells identifies primarily as a gender queer but prefers masculine pronouns. He is originally from Indiana but now resides in Rogers Park and loves to spend time with his beautiful fiancé. The study will be on Mondays at 6pm for 8 weeks. Please join us. Questions? Contact Rev. Vernice.

Youth Lounge – March Update!

Youth Lounge will be 2 years young in March 2012!

Thank you for your continued support for “our” youth!

*Please join us after the 11am service on Sunday, March 25th
to celebrate with a special cake and reception
in thanks for you, our Broadway family.*

Youth Lounge uses grant money to continue training workshops...

The Youth Lounge has now held two training workshops to start off the new year. The second workshop, De-Escalation Skills, was held on February 19 and led by Lara Brooks, Director of Broadway Youth Center, and focused on ways to continue to make sure Youth Lounge is a safe space for “our” resilient young people. These trainings are funded by the grant Youth Lounge received from the United Methodist Church Division on Ministries with Young People for this 2012 year. This grant was awarded specifically for use towards volunteer training. As we grow in this important way, we are thankful – and we continue to be grateful for your support.

Youth Lounge hosts student group from Rhodes College...

A small group of volunteers hosted a panel discussion with students from Rhodes College (Tennessee) on February 10, 2012. The group of students came to Chicago to do justice work around LGBTQ concerns and were excited to hear about the work being done at Broadway through Youth Lounge! They thought together about ways they might do similar work, with a similar heart, in Tennessee.

Youth Lounge continues with dates in March...

The upcoming Youth Lounge dates for February 2012 are February 11th and 25th. Please be on the look-out for food donation sheets for these upcoming meals at Broadway on Sundays!

Current Donations Needed for Youth Lounge

Warm clothing
Socks, hats, gloves
Boots and shoes

Non-perishable snack foods
Sturdy paper plates and napkins
Foods as requested for meals

*Please bring any donations to the church office during office hours or
to church on Sunday and make sure to let one of the pastors, Z, or Tracy know!*

SPRING FORWARD



Don't Forget!!

Daylight Saving Time begins

Sunday, March 11, 2012, 2:00am,

and ends Sunday, November 4, 2012, 2:00am.

**Move your clocks ahead 1 hour in spring
(on the evening of March 10th)**

and back 1 hour in fall ("Spring forward, fall back").

ARTS AND COMPUTERS

Join us for a fun time in creating some great art projects while at the same time learning more about technology. If you have wanted to complete some great family projects or learn more about computers, join us for any of the following events:

March – Family Stories-Photo Album – Tell your family story with pictures included. Learn how to create digital and traditional formats for a family history keepsake. **(March 3, 17, 24)**

April – Favorite Food – Create a cookbook or apron with your favorite recipes.

May – Personalized Gifts — Give that special someone or yourself a personalized T-shirt or customized Tote Bag as the perfect gift.

June and July – Quilting the BroadWAY – Take traditional quilting to a new level by including pictures of family and friends on your quilt.

Each session will be the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of the month from 2:00-3:30pm. Contact Latoya Thorn at (312) 543-2029, latoya@latoyathornphotography.com or Vincent Wiggins at (773) 450-6706, vwig-gins@OnlineEducationSolutions.org to sign up for any or all of the events.

HOSPITAL BILL RELIEF WORKSHOP

We'll assist YOU with a charity care application. If you have unpaid hospital bills, are uninsured, and are low-income, you **might be eligible** to have your hospital bills reduced or erased. Hospitals call this charity care. This workshop will be **Monday, March 5, from 5 to 8 pm** at Lakeview Action Coalition. For more information and to find you what you need to bring, please contact Hannah at 773-549-1947 ext. 398 or hgelder@lakeviewaction.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

I'm excited to announce the beginning of our congregational care team. Our foundation for this team comes from our mission statement and vision of inclusion and scriptural understanding that "we are not alone." As we care for one another, we put God's love into action. This team will assist the pastors in calling and visiting our sick and shut-in and praying for individuals as well as the community at large. If you have questions about how to become a part of the team, see me. We've included a picture of a few of the team members and listed names of the whole team. ~ Pastor Thorn

Congregational Care Team Members:

Amy Wells

Katy Clusen

Matthew Williams (pictured in center)

Cindy Grissom (pictured on left)

Laurie Mosses

Erik Remy

Richard C. Johnson

Bob Gorman

Diana Davis (pictured on right)



NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Episcopal leader for the Northern Illinois conference is proud to announce the appointment of a new District Superintendent to the Northern Illinois Cabinet effective July 1, 2012. **Reverend Dr. Zaki Labib Zaki**, currently serving as pastor at East Side United Methodist Church, Chicago and the new faith community g2g, will assume the position of Chicago Northwestern District Superintendent. Rev. Zaki follows **Rev. James Preston** who has been appointed pastor at Kingswood United Methodist Church in Buffalo Grove, IL.



Rev. Dr. Zaki Labib Zaki is a visionary whose roots extend across many lands. Born in Sudan to Egyptian missionaries and church planters, he spent much of his early leadership life organizing grassroots Christian Student movements and working with refugees from Ethiopia to the Middle East.

In 1989 Zaki came to the United States to accept a fellowship at McCormick Theological Seminary. After receiving his Masters degree from McCormick, Zaki completed and received a Doctor of Ministry degree from The Chicago Theological Seminary. In 1997, Rev. Zaki was appointed pastor of East Side United Methodist Church. While serving at East Side UMC, Rev. Zaki founded The Zone Youth & Community Center in 2002 together with his wife Ayla and a team of committed church leaders. In 2010, with support from the Northern Illinois Conference, East Side United Methodist Church, The Zone, and a wonderful team of courageous leaders, Rev. Zaki planted g2g Church (Generation To Generation Church), a youth-led and youth-driven church.

"I am honored to serve a Great and Faithful God under the leadership of a visionary and courageous Bishop who is a man of faith and prayer. I am also honored to serve the most diverse district in our Annual Conference following in the footsteps of Rev. James Preston, an effective leader whom we all admire and love," said Rev. Zaki.

"Zaki is a gifted leader in our annual conference who has helped us stretch into new areas of witness through ministry at East Side and G2G (Generation to Generation). He brings a sense of global inclusion, ministry excellence and a commitment to our future. He will be a gift to the work of the conference and the life of the Northwestern District," said Bishop Jung.

Rev. Zaki is married to Ayla, an artist and a co-planter of g2g church. They are the proud parents of 5 children and just as many community initiatives.



Rev. James Preston has been appointed senior pastor at Kingswood United Methodist Church in Buffalo Grove, IL following Rev. Margaret Gramley, who after serving seven years at Kingswood is entering retirement.



Rev. Preston is currently serving as the Chicago Northwestern District Superintendent, where he has served for six years. Prior to coming to the district, Rev. Preston was the lead pastor at Brooke Road United Methodist Church in Rockford, IL.

He also served extension ministries and congregations in Texas, Oklahoma, and Northern Illinois. A native Texan, Preston attended Texas Tech University and then Perkins School of Theology in Dallas where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1990. Rev. Preston is committed to reaching new people for Jesus Christ, seeking God's justice in the world, and proclaiming a message of full inclusion within and outside the church. Preston said of the Chicago Northwestern District, "This amazingly diverse district lives the great vision of God's reign. I am honored and thankful to serve with such committed United Methodist laity and clergy! God is leading us to change the world in this district!"

"It has been a great honor to serve with James over the past six years as a member of the Northern Illinois Cabinet. James' love for Christ, his passion for the church, his witness to social justice and his exemplary leadership have been and will continue to be of great value in his ministry to Kingswood UMC and the wider church," said Bishop Jung. "We celebrate James' dedication to developing new faith communities and all his great works to expand the Kingdom in the Chicago Northwestern District."

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 2012

**Celebrating Martin Luther King Day, Making It Real,
Guest Preacher Mark A. Miller**

(photography by Danyel Duncan)



FINANCE UPDATE

Here is a summary of what was discussed at the congregational meeting on January 29th:

The Money Ministry Team prepared a PowerPoint presentation with details about how we ended 2011, and what we anticipate for 2012 based on the promises of giving and other sources of support for our ministry.

In brief:

- ◆ we ended 2011 by taking in about \$257,000; spending just less than that
- ◆ we gave 25% of our United Methodist apportionment
- ◆ based on pledged giving and 2011 actual revenue in other categories, we project 2012 **revenues** at about \$269,000
- ◆ based on 2011 actuals, and keeping a flat budget, our 2012 **expense** budget remains at about \$290,000 (at full apportionment contribution**).

**Lois and I were able to meet with Northern Illinois Conference Treasurer Lonnie Chafin, at a meeting about apportionments on January 23rd, and learned that we may be able to modify Broadway's apportionment – we will be meeting with him in the next month to review our total ministry picture. We could see a significant reduction in our apportionment expense.

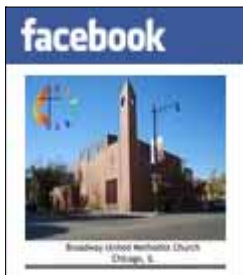
The congregation voted to support this budget with an intention to raise additional funds. We're not going on blind faith — we're saying that we can do more to meet this budget.

If you'd like a copy of the PowerPoint, you can pick up a copy in the office.

In Peace,

Katy Clusen and The Money Ministry Team

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!

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

Twitter: @ChicagoBUMC

STEPS FOR EQUALITY

Myth #7 Opposing homosexuality is "Christian."

As United Methodists, we have a long, cherished tradition of honoring a variety of beliefs, expressions of faith and biblical interpretations. As followers of Jesus and recipients of God's expansive grace, we know that our primary role as disciples is to extend God's love to others. Using God and faith to disguise our own fear, discomfort or narrowness is never "Christian". People of good faith can, and do, embrace LGBT people as the beloved children of God they are.

Source: 9 Myths About Our Gay and Lesbian Children-The Reconciling Ministries Network

Contributed by: Dee, Helen, & Emily who are Allies For Change

HISTORICAL NOTE

An obsolete tradition or one worth reviving?

"Pulpit Flowers" from *Church News*, May 1918

This refers to something else besides the flowers that blossom forth in the pastor's sermons. For several years the Ladies' Aid Society has furnished the flowers which have adorned the pulpit stand. It has become a considerable expense and became a routine affair. The Aid, after careful consideration, decided to elevate the matter of flowers to the plane of inspiration and meaning. The privilege of furnishing flowers was accorded those who desired to commemorate the birth or death of a relative or friend.

The present plan has proved to be both beautiful and spiritually helpful. Just before the second hymn, when announcements have been made and collection taken, the pastor announces the names of donors and the person commemorated.

*Editor's Note:

A list follows, in memory of deceased loved ones and in honor of others who may be either living or deceased.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

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March Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **April 2012** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, March 25th**. 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

March 2012

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akatinyt@hotmail.com

Director of Music & Worship Arts: Samuel-Hilaire Duplessis
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Student Pastor: Benjamin Bower
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Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays!

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