



Broadway
United Methodist Church



INSIDE

Pastor's Paragraphs	1
Vernice's View	2
Kevin's Korner	3
Schedule at a Glance...	4
World AIDS Day and Human Rights Day	4
December Mission Minute	5
Holiday Portraits	5
Hanging of the Greens	6
Christmas Concert	6
Sunday Adult Education Hour	7
Wednesday Night Live!	7
Worship Wonder	7
Celebrate, Re-dedicate: 2012	8
Become a Magi!	8
Rich Rituals	9
Chomp and Chat	9
Healing Service	9
Welcoming Statement	10
Register Now! Winter Warming	10
Advent Poinsettias	11
Youth Lounge	12
Bible Study	13
Broadway Cookbook	13
Computer Classes	14
Kwanzaa	14
Social Media	14
Historical Note	15
CWAC — insert	

The Broadway — January 2011



The Pastor's Paragraphs

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
~ Amos 5

When we said yes to the invitation to follow Jesus, we were saying yes to being workers for justice, and in particular to being workers to end racism and to construct a racially just church and society...this is an essential and fundamental part of what it means to follow Jesus...part of the sacred task of restoring the family of God.

~ Joseph Barndt, *Becoming and Anti-Racist Church: Journeying toward Wholeness*

As I write, the waiting days of Advent near their conclusion in the energy and holiness of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Broadway — a time of wonder come to life in so many diverse ways. And the celebration of Kwanzaa and Epiphany are on the horizon as 2012 beckons.

We've been looking at synonyms of "epiphany" in our Worship and program planning as we consider this amazing season to come, this season when scripture tells tales of people (including the wise Anna and Simeon, and the astrologically-minded Magi) who recognize the baby Jesus as the "one" they've been waiting for: the long-awaited Messiah, the anointed one (the Christ), the new King.

"Expressions," "signs," "demonstrations," "revelations," and — my favorite: "manifestation." The epiphany we welcome in January is that God is *made manifest* in human form — the "word made flesh" in traditional language; "moved into the neighborhood" in Eugene Peterson's version of the holy word.

So each year we, too, are invited to consider the "so what?" of the birth of Jesus, who became preached as the Christ. What is "made manifest" for us as those who follow this divine human born in Bethlehem who grew up to trouble the waters of power and privilege to bring God's heart of justice to bear?

As many of us have looked ahead, we've chosen a way to think about this as we lead our community of faith in 2012 — to "make real" what it means to follow Jesus and the inseparable link of Jesus and justice. In our context as an anti-racist institution that seeks to be a multi-cultural expression of faithfulness, as an open and affirming congregation who will witness that this is the year we expect the UMC to rid itself of bigotry against persons who are LGBTQ, let's "make real" what it means to be a community of Jesus.

Looking forward to putting flesh on bone with you in 2012,

Lois

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



Vernice's View

I begin this New Year with an attitude of thankfulness; for each of you, for this wonderfully unique and loving community, whom I call family, for all that you do for me and for each other. As I review 2011, its highlights and its challenges, I know that I am, that WE are blessed in so many ways. We said good-bye to some loved ones and friends as they transitioned to a different life. We welcomed new life through birth and new friendships and relationships. The circle of life continues. It ebbs and flows through good times and challenging times. And through it all we have God and we have each other. That truly is something to be thankful for.

The New Year is always a time of reflection as we process events from the past 12 months and prepare for a new and hopeful year. We hope for peace. We hope for economic justice. We hope for growth and healing... We move into 2012 with that hopefulness and also with a wisdom learned from our connection with each other and with the world. Equipped with that wisdom we continue to answer God's call on our lives – a call to love God, to love neighbor and to make a difference in the world.

Recently at a combined People of Color (POC) and Anti-Racist White Caucus (ARWC) meeting, we chose a church wide theme for this year “**Making it Real.**” I love this theme because there are visions for me of process and journey and I do love both. **Making** is an action word that means we are in process, living in the now and the not yet. **Real** is the authenticity that we read about in scripture, that we sing about in hymns and that we hope for in prayer. **Making it Real** is a way for us to put legs to the words of our Mission Statement and in our Anti-Racist Declaration. **Making it Real** is a way for us to live into being the radically inclusive church that we name and claim each and every Sunday.

I hope that you will join with these two caucuses and your pastors this year in **Making it Real**. It is a call to continue the ministry path we are on and it is also a challenge to go deeper into what that means for our personal lives and for the life of this community. You will hear more about this theme as the year unfolds. I invite you to hear this call as an essential part of your spiritual life, not just a Sunday morning call, but a call that you feel compelled to embrace each and everyday of your life, wherever you are. The educational opportunities, the worship experience – from environment, to Gospel readers and liturgists, to singing praises, to outreach, to serving on committees, to small group study, to special events, to offering our gifts – are all a part of **Making it Real**. I encourage each of us this year to take seriously the roll God is calling you to in this community. We are on this journey and in this process together. Let's be real with each other, speaking and listening to each others' stories, sharing each others' joys and struggles, loving and celebrating each other in our uniqueness.

My prayer for us this year is that God will give us the courage and the insight to celebrate the places of intersections, in and through our differences. That is what **Making it Real** means to me.

One of my favorite authors is Audre Lorde and so I leave you with this quote from her book, *Sister Outsider*. Please be challenged by it.

“What we must do is commit ourselves to some future that can include each other and to work toward that future with the particular strengths of our individual identities. And in order to do this, we must allow each other our differences at the same time as we recognize our sameness.”

Making it Real in 2012,

Vernice

Kevin's Korner

January 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,

Since it's New Year's time, a little horn tootin' seems appropriate. Every now and then, some nice things get written about Bloom by folks who experience us. Here are a few quotations that make us feel like we are doing well doing good.

This is from a new valley resident. They drive 45 to 60 minutes from their home to our location:

Of all the churches we have visited, we like Bloom the best. Your members have a true sense of what the church is all about, unlike the "country club" church that I left. My daughter and my new son-in-law will be here for Christmas. I hope to attend the Christmas Eve service.

When the Executive Director of The Trevor Project spoke, we got this from a visitor:

Thanks for a lovely service this morning. I appreciated (the speaker's) remarks both during the service and (at the forum) afterwards and the way the readings, prayers, and your remarks dovetailed with the issues of inclusion and welcoming to all members of the human race regardless of those things we so readily latch onto to divide us. I found it serendipitous that the first reading was from Micah. On my ordination cards (so long ago) I used the quote at the end of the reading—"This is what God asks of us this, only this...To act justly; to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." I left organized religious Christianity many years ago. That is a story which someday I may share with you. But for now, I want you to know that I admire you and the work you do—your consistent witness for justice and acceptance embodies the best of your religious tradition.

Here is what one person wrote to our conference minister (D.S./bishop-lite) after visiting Bloom last month:

I attended the Bloom in the Desert congregation a week ago. This congregation should be the poster child for extravagant welcoming congregations! They were amazing. I was met in the parking lot, in the narthex, and in the worship space. The worship was wonderful. The setting of the sacred space was lovely. The sermon was top notch. The music was perfect. AND, the refreshments after worship were terrific. The worship service reflected the welcoming attitude. What more can I say? This place was alive with the Spirit and worthy of whatever attention and support we can offer them. If only it weren't so far away.....

I hope this helps you know that here in the desert Bloom is acting upon the lesson we learned at Broadway well.

Let's keep in touch. This winter, come visit us. 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

KWANZAA CELEBRATION SUNDAY

KWANZAA



Worship Celebration and Feast

**Sunday, January 1, 2012
12 noon**

Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural holiday celebrated from December 26-January 1, with each day focused on Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles) This year Broadway's People of Color and Anti-Racist White Caucus dicussion groups invite you to a one day celebration, feast, AND memorial service for Floretha Reid "Mama Flo"



Kwanzaa Principles

Umoja (Unity)

To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves stand up

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems, and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith)

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

CELEBRATE, RE-DEDICATE: 2012

"...with the eyes of the heart enlightened, you know the hope to which Christ has called you."

~ Ephesians 1:18



Thanks so much to all who made Consecration Sunday (November 20) such an amazing day of Worship & Celebration! Thanks especially to Dr. Keith Hampton, our special musical guest; thanks to our dancers & musicians; thanks to Diana Davis (Co-Lay-Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, and Lay Speaker), who shared her story of finding a home at Broadway!

And: thanks to all who felt ready to make a pledge, committing to the regular financial support of Broadway's identity & mission for 2012. **As of December 19th**, we've received promises for 2012 from about 71 households of our worshipping community, **totaling around \$162,000 -- getting us started** toward what we need to continue to do the amazing ministry to which we're committed.

If you weren't able to be with us Sunday, please find a [pledge card](#) online under "Resources" and then "Miscellaneous" (or stop by Broadway to pick one up), and return to the office as soon as you can so we can best predict how we'll put together a budget for 2012.

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

Education Hour: Anne Lamott's *Traveling Mercies*. See "Traveling Mercies" on pg. 7.

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: Anne Lamott's *Traveling Mercies*. See "Traveling Mercies" on pg. 7.

Holding onto Hope is being re-evaluated for 2012. Stay tuned for more information!

TRAVELING MERCIES

*We're born broken and we live by mending.
The grace of God is glue.*

Maybe you don't think you're a "book study" person...
...well...
this class is for YOU!

Come discover how one writer's life journey – in all its raw messiness – opens wide the door of faith. You'll read about Anne's own journey from alcohol & drug addiction as an isolated single Mom to her discovery of the power of a faith community called "church."

Anne Lamott's

Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith

Sundays @ 10am January 8, 15, 22, 29

Wednesdays @ 7pm January 4, 11, 18, 25

*When God is going to do something wonderful,
He or She always starts with a hardship;
when God is going to do something amazing,
He or She starts with an impossibility.*



Borrow a copy from the Library. Buy a second-hand copy.

Or just come and add to the conversation with your own life journey's insights.

We're hoping Anne shows up...

CHOMP AND CHAT



We would like to extend an invitation to the next Chomp and Chat on **Sunday, January 8th after the 11:00 Service**. Please bring your choice of one of the following to share with our community of friends: side dish, veggie tray, chips, beverage or dessert.

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

YOUTH LOUNGE REFLECTION

December 3, 2011

We had a remarkable experience on December 3rd during a gathering at our church. About 20 Youth Lounge youths along with congregation members came together for a purpose.

The day was originally planned to repair a hole in the church basement wall on the same day as the hanging of the greens. But the day turned into something more than repairing a wall and Christmas decorating. Community building is one of the goals of the Youth Lounge. This became a reality as the day went on.

Among those who assisted Mel in wall repair was a YL young woman who has had job training in carpentry, and a young man who sat close and watched but did not do 'hands on' work. His questions showed an interest and participation that are one form of community and relationship building. Several other youths assisted during the repair.

Five or ten youths participated in the hanging of the greens. Some youths hung greens and lights outside, all around the Broadway entrance. It looks beautiful and we are very grateful.

Throughout the day, Latoya cleaned out & reorganized an education closet in the basement. One YL young man helped her move items out, reorganize, and move items back into the closet, including a shelf. This process took several hours, ending with a successfully reorganized closet.

So the youth became involved not only in wall repair but in reorganizing and decorating the church as well. They became part of our church community and were not just visitors. The YL began as a way for our congregation to give to the community. On December 3rd it felt like we were the ones being given to. The YL youth are becoming partners with us to help us "live into our identity as a multicultural community of faith," one of the stated goals of the YL.

At the next YL, the youth and YL team will decorate a Christmas tree in the basement. We hope to share future church projects with YL youth. Who knows what future shared projects will develop.

~ Susan Armstrong

YOUTH LOUNGE — JAN. UPDATE

The Youth Lounge has been thriving for almost two years!

As you read from Susan's description (see pg. 8), we enjoyed a great time at Hanging of the Greens with 'our' youth and are so glad Broadway UMC welcomed the young people to join in on the fun!

On December 10th, we opened up the Youth Lounge space for community, a home-cooked meal, and good company, gathering with about 40 youth and shared a meal of chili hot dogs, baked beans, and Z's famous jello! As of the time of writing this, we look ahead to celebrating Christmas Day with our youth, inviting them to our BUMC community meal, providing presents (generously donated!), and welcoming many of 'our' youth home to the Youth Lounge for the holidays.

We have had four new volunteer team members join the Youth Lounge group in the past month, as well. Two of our newest volunteers have begun to revamp our dressing room / clothes closet, making sure 'our' young people have warm clothes for the winter temperatures. We are in need of your help to continue to provide these clothes – please see the donation list to the right (--->) for what we hope to receive and share with 'our' youth!

On the 10th, a number of the young people were very excited about their new clothes, showing off their new jackets, shoes, and carefully selected outfits! Thank you for your continued support in this love work. The youth consistently express their appreciation for the space the Youth Lounge creates and the ways they are able to help create it!

Donation Needs for the Youth Lounge

We are currently in need of:

- * Warm hats, gloves, scarves
- * Warm socks
- * Winter coats
- * Jeans and pants
- * Boots and shoes
- * Warm shirts/tops

We are always looking for help with food donations for the meals we serve and share with the youth. Announcements are made on Sundays prior to meals with the specifics – so please keep an eye and ear out and heart open for these requests!

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!

RICH RITUALS

Please join us on **Sunday, Jan. 8 at 12:30 pm** to work on worship planning for Lent. If you have questions or would like to participate but cannot attend, contact Carol McPherson at carol.mcpherson@garrett.edu.

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, 10-11:30am in the Wesley Room @ Broadway.**

JANUARY MISSION MINUTE

Our Mission Minute for January is Church of the Reconciler.

Church of the Reconciler (www.churchofthereconciler.com) is a multicultural, multiracial, mission church, serving over 900 homeless people in Birmingham, Alabama. We have offered our financial support to Rev. Kevin Higgs and our sister church that boldly proclaims itself to be “A Church in Mission to Homeless,” in Birmingham over the past several years.

Our Mission Minute Sunday is January 8, but you can donate throughout the month – make checks out to Broadway and designate your check or envelope “Church of the Reconciler” or “Mission Minute.” You can also donate [online](#).



REGISTER NOW! WINTER WARMING



**A congress of Reconciling
United Methodists**

Sat, Jan. 14, 2012

Euclid Avenue UMC
(405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park)

Featuring Worship with **Mark Miller**

LOVE REJOICES!

We welcome singer/songwriter and gay United Methodist, Mark A. Miller as our guest preacher and music leader. Mark teaches sacred music and worship at Drew and Yale Universities, and serves as Minister of Music at Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey.

Please join us for:

WORKSHOPS — WORSHIP — DINNER

Registration: 1 pm; Workshop #1: 1:30 pm; Worship: 3 pm; Workshop #2: 4:30 pm; Dinner: 6 pm

Register at www.winterwarming.com

HISTORICAL NOTE

Can we meet next year's challenges with the same spirit?

"Month of New Beginnings" (excerpt) from *Broadway Methodist*, January 1929

It may not be too late to profitably remind ourselves of the significance of January as the month of new beginnings. The impulse to "ring out the old and ring in the new" is almost universal in January. We can do no better thing than to obey this impulse and share in the adventure and joy making a fresh start.

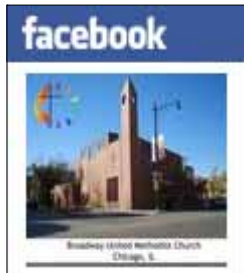
There may be a tinge of regret as we say goodbye to the old year, but this is more than offset by the relief one feels in leaving behind the imperfections of the past record. There is a sense of release, of freedom and joy, there is tang and flavor and color in life as one faces the experiences of a new year with resolute determination to live better than in any year that has gone before.

My hope and prayer is that each of you are by this time so well launched on the great enterprise of better Christian living that 1929 will be a year long remembered for growth in all the Christian graces.

~ Rev. J. Pierce Newell, pastor

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

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

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.

February Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **February 2012** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, January 22nd**. 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

January 2012

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

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