



Broadway
United Methodist Church



The Broadway — April 2010

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The Pastor's Paragraphs

For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. ~ Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? ~ Isaiah 43:18-19

We heard this passage from Isaiah on Sunday, March 21st – through the prophet Isaiah, God saying *forget everything that happened before; I am about to do a new thing*. Forget that I created all that is. Forget how I've led people to freedom. Forget that I offer abundant life.

Hmmm. The wonderful works of God, each on top of each other...each "new thing" revealing God in a new way. So is God's love greater with each generation? Or...is it just that God's love, infinite from the beginning, becomes clear to each new generation?

Here we are again on the heels of the Spring Equinox as the earth turns from the dead and cold of winter to the life of spring. Here we are again anticipating the great stories of our faith as we re-tell the palm parade, the final supper Jesus shared with his friends, the Passion...and then the mighty power of the resurrection. The Bible stories that shape our faith as Christians, grounded in God's victory of life over death.

We've heard it before. So how do we forget "the former things" and hear God's "new thing" this time when we hear the amazing story of death defeated? How has our Lenten journey helped us to see where there is "death" for us...that we might call on God's resurrection power in our own lives, calling us forth to the *new*?

Every new work of God is not only a revelation of God's love, it is God's love *come alive*, God's love moving in our time, God's love poured out in a new way on those who've been least, last, lost, left-out *today*.

This old-new thing God calls us to *be* and *do* is to faithfully, boldly pour out God's love upon one another, upon all who enter Broadway, upon all who are in our community. We are called to love so well that the people around us rejoice that we are here. This is what we are to be and do – God's new thing in the heart of Lakeview.

Spring beckons. Resurrection beckons. What new growth will appear?!



In faith,

Lois +

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



Vernice's View

Resurrection cometh!

As I sit to write this newsletter I am just returning from a trip to New Orleans. I'm not sure what I expected, but my experience far exceeded any expectations I might have started with. The trip was Church Within A Church's (CWAC) national board meeting. Included in our time was a work project organized through UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief. Twelve participants, from across the US, all of us wearing CWAC t-shirts, went into the lower ninth ward and discovered the Good Friday and the Resurrection message embodied in the lives of that community.

We begin the month of April still in the midst of Lent, with Holy Week just around the corner. I've said about Resurrection that it is a day of celebration, yet we must not forget the Good Friday experience — the reality of the deaths in our everyday lives. With the hope of resurrection, we can look despair in the eye, whether in the mirror of our own life experience or in the faces of the hurting and dispossessed in the world, and declare with active resolve, "Christ is risen." With this hope we can speak life whenever and wherever we encounter death.

I wrote that in a sermon three years ago, and it was in the ninth ward, in New Orleans, where the reality of that statement was made manifest. Four years after Katrina, the devastation of the land, as well as the resilience and the spirit of the people, are both obvious if we have eyes and hearts to see. As we stood and looked around that community, Ms. Anderson, the owner of the house we worked in, pointed to where the levy broke 2 blocks from her house. In those two blocks there are homes that have been gutted and rebuilt, there are new homes built and being built, there are homes still in process like Ms Anderson's, and there are abandoned homes still broken and smashed from the storm, barely standing. The UMCOR representative explained to us that some of the not-yet-gutted homes are left that way because they are unable to find the owners, not sure if they are among the dead or if they left and could not return.

Nevertheless, each person who passed us on foot or in a car waved or spoke a greeting, the most common, "How y'all doing?" Ms Anderson was most appreciative as we put the finishing touches on her home, a home she had been working to restore for four years. Yet, we realize that as she and many others claim resurrection, as they are able to embrace new life, a closer glimpse reveals the haunted expressions in their eyes, reminding us of the Good Friday experience which continues to inform their lives. That's not a bad thing, but an indication that there is death in us and all around us. Even so, God, without fail, invites us to life again and again. The hope, our hope, is in the Resurrection as God speaks life wherever there is death. Moving through the ninth ward, there was a feeling of hope mixed with despair as we encountered both death and new life.

As we move toward the empty tomb on Easter morning, my prayer is that we, too, might be aware of the deaths in our lives, even as we embrace the promise of Resurrection.



In Truth and Justice,

Vernice

Kevin's Korner

April 2010

Background note: Rev. Kevin A. Johnson and Mike Shear are BUMC members who moved to Palm Springs, California, in July 2002, to begin Bloom in the Desert Ministries, which is an interdenominational, inclusive Christian ministry including the Methodist (Broadway style) tradition. "Kevin's Korner" is a monthly column reporting on their progress so Broadway and Bloom stay well connected in ministry together. (www.bloominthedesert.org)



Hello Broadway friends and colleagues.

We celebrate Easter renewal as spring comes to the desert, too.

Our great news is that Bloom's first-ever "Spring Fling Cabaret and Silent Auction" on March 5th was a spectacular success. The house was full. The show was FABULOUS. The food and drink were top notch. The silent auction was respectable and the spirit was grrreat! I walked on air (not water) for three days or more afterward. This was an outpouring of so much positive energy on behalf of Bloom. Mike and I were so touched. It was simply amazing.

One of the joys of the weekend was having David Gould here. He came as our Broadway rep to celebrate Bloom's seventh anniversary of Sunday Morning worship as well as attend the Spring Fling. Bloomers and friends were delighted to share David's company. It was great to read David's epistles on Broadway Connect. He relayed aspects of the weekend festivities and Bloom's growth very well.

As mentioned in this column before, the benefit was for our long term sustainability by supporting Bloom's Endowment/Green Building Fund. We made our goal of netting \$10,000. Wow.

This has real implications as we consider ways to have a more permanent image and presence in our community. As it is now, renting Sunday worship space at the YMCA and office space in a bedroom of the "parsonage," Bloom has no physical identity beyond the times on Sunday mornings when our signs are out on the sidewalk. Maybe having some real money in the bank and a plan to have a substantial annual fundraiser will help us gain Monday-through-Saturday physical identity as well.

Another recent blessing was having Dr. Dana Brown come be our Sunday morning musician on March 14th. Dana was in town for the annual big tennis tournament here (watching, not playing). This year he took us up on our standing invitation to come play on a Sunday morning. It brought back some fun memories of our mutual days at Broadway. His music was inspiring and his presence graceful. I am sure that all Bloomers and friends will look forward to a day when Dr. Dana returns.

After Easter, our seasonal attendance patterns will begin to change. In fact some snowbirds are already leaving. We've had some record attendance this season and are well ahead of our average at this time last year. So, it is always an "adjustment" for us as the pulse of Bloom and the valley slows bit by bit into the summer.

Please keep all of us in your prayers and join us on Facebook.

KAJ

THE GREAT THREE DAYS

MAUNDY THURSDAY: SEDER & VIGIL GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

In traditional terms, the “great three days” are called *The Holy Triduum*. While that term might not sound familiar to you...the three days are: it’s the journey from Maundy Thursday and the remembrance of Jesus at a Passover meal where he washed the disciples’ feet...to Jesus praying all night in the Garden of Gethsemane...to the arrest, trial, suffering, denial of Jesus...to the cross of Good Friday...to the quiet of Holy Saturday...and to the first light of Easter Resurrection.



These are indeed “high holy days” for Christians as we hear again the story of death *to life*. Here at Broadway, we are invited into the customs which take us on the journey – the wonderful Seder meal on Thursday, the Thursday night Vigil, Good Friday Worship where will move to darkness and “strip the altar” (remove candles and paraments from the Sanctuary), Saturday’s preparation for an Easter Sunday morning Sunrise service on the beach (this year with Holy Covenant UMC), and our 8:45 & 11 Worship services, with Easter Brunch in between...

Please contact the church office (broadwayc@ameritech.net/773-348-2679) to make your reservation for the Seder Dinner and/or to offer an hour to help Broadway with *The Great Three Days*! (Volunteer opportunities include set-up, décor, and clean-up Thursday, Friday and/or Sunday, and/or bringing a dish for Easter Brunch — please contact the church office for more information!)

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK 2010

Thursday, April 1st: MAUNDY THURSDAY

- Seder Dinner at 7 pm
- Vigil from 10 pm to 6 am

Friday, April 2nd: GOOD FRIDAY

- Evening Worship at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 4th: EASTER

- 6:00 am Sunrise Service on the beach with Holy Covenant UMC (see right)
- 8:45 am Prayer & Preaching Worship
- 10:00 am Easter Brunch
- 11:00 am Festival Worship

Easter Sunrise Service

Meet at **6:00 am** at the Clock Tower and walk the path to the Lake to enjoy an Easter Sunrise with the combined congregations of Holy Covenant & Broadway UMC! Here’s information on how to join us:

- Take Recreation Drive to the Totem Poll at Belmont & Lakeshore Dr.
- Follow the signs north to the Marovitz Golf Course.
- Ample parking in area; bike and walker-friendly. Accessible pathway from parking to Clock Tower to Sea Wall.
- Find a place to sit on the Sea Wall. You may want to bring a blanket to sit on!

BROADWAY HOLY WEEK VIGIL

Broadway Holy Week Vigil A Moving Experience...

By Scott McGowan

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

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

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

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

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

Videos

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

Painting or drawing

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Sanctuary Prayer

Need some meditation time after a stressful day? Need strength and encouragement to complete the week? Need quiet time to reflect on transitions going on in your life? Need special prayer to help you through a particularly challenging time? If you answered yes to any of these questions, there is a special place to have those needs addressed. Sanctuary Prayer is open to the church and community **each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Come, enjoy the quiet, and listen to meditative music and the healing sound of water. A pastor is available for special prayer and consultation.

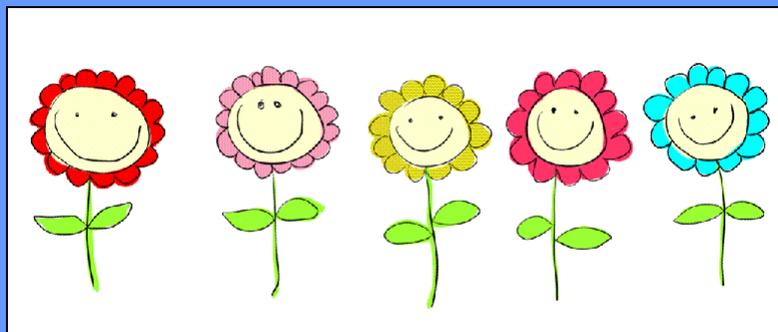


Guided Meditation

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

Education Hour

Lectionary Bible Study Returns!! for the month of April, **beginning April 7th at 7pm in the Pillow Room**, we will study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday, highlighting the history, background and life application. Bring your favorite Bible (we will also have some available) and join us for what has typically been lively and meaningful discussions. For questions contact Pastor Vernice Thorn.



AN INVITATION



It's time to re-think our Wednesday night potluck.

The evolution of our potluck, 6-6:30pm on Wednesdays, is that we've moved from what was originally a shared meal provided by those who attended Wednesday night Bible Study...to Bible Study and Choir ending up on the same night...to other shifts which led to not always having enough food for those gathered...*well*...in short: the meal has become a challenge...

All of that to say...**Wednesday, March 24 was our last potluck for awhile; we have suspended the meal for now**...and, in the meantime...issue an invitation to the community to **claim this evening meal as a ministry**.

What we need:

- An overall organizer(s)
- A plan
- A team to help with:
- Kitchen set-up (plates, etc.)
- Cooking
- Clean-up

We are so grateful to the folks who have been helping to set up tables & chairs, setting out dining supplies, cooks, dishwashers...all those who have made it work as long as it has...**Thank you!**

...and...we are entering a new season that calls for the Broadway community to re-think how a Wednesday night meal can happen...

We welcome your participation as a planner or provider...and ask you to email the office at Broadway Church at broadwayc@ameritech.net to let us know if you feel called to this ministry! And please keep in prayer those who have been part of the Wednesday meal and fellowship as we seek to discern the future of this evening at Broadway – **thanks!**

GARDEN PARTY: GROW YOUR DREAM!

By the time you read this, each of our small “flower” groups will have gathered at least once; some have already had three parties...our facilitators have also reflected on what these gatherings have meant to us as we tackle difficult conversations and as we celebrate knowing one another more deeply.

Our goals during this season are to build relationships, to share ways in which Broadway's mission speaks to us, to dream about how we see Broadway in the future, and to claim our part in making those dreams grow.

If you've not had a chance to be part of a gathering...**it is not too late!** Find your name on the groups posted on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary – if we inadvertently missed you...please forgive us and add your name! Or...call Vernice or Lois and let them know you'd like to be part of a gathering...or, find a “flower” gathering on the Broadway calendar and show up!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to talk with one of the pastors. We are praying with all of you as we Grow Broadway's Dream!

SUNDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY

Join us at 10 am on the Sunday after Easter (April 11), as we start a 5-week study of Sara Miles' *Take This Bread*. The book explores Miles' own conversion at the age of 46, in which a liberal professional blue-state lesbian daughter of atheist parents impulsively participated in holy communion. The act of "eating Jesus" led Miles to profoundly change her life, and uncompromisingly take on Christ's command to feed the hungry. Feeding the hungry became Miles' life work, and she relates it with a level of radical inclusion and welcome that is both inspiring and challenging, edifying and convicting.

Books are \$10 or pay-what-you-can. For a copy of the book, please contact Aaron Andersen (773-451-5346, aaron.andersen@gmail.com) or Amy Daigler (312-593-6072, amydaigler@hotmail.com). [If the book is outside of your price range, don't let that keep you away! There are some scholarships (meaning free books) available. Just let Aaron or Amy or Lois or Vernice know. Here's another hint for the budget-conscience: Amy found a copy at the Oak Park Public Library! You are, of course, free to get the book from any source you like.]

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Seven Weeks with the Gospel of Luke

Mondays @ Bob Gorman's (3410 N. Lakeshore Drive, Unit 8F),
7-8:30 pm on April 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24

Wednesdays @ BUMC,
10-11:30 am on April 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26

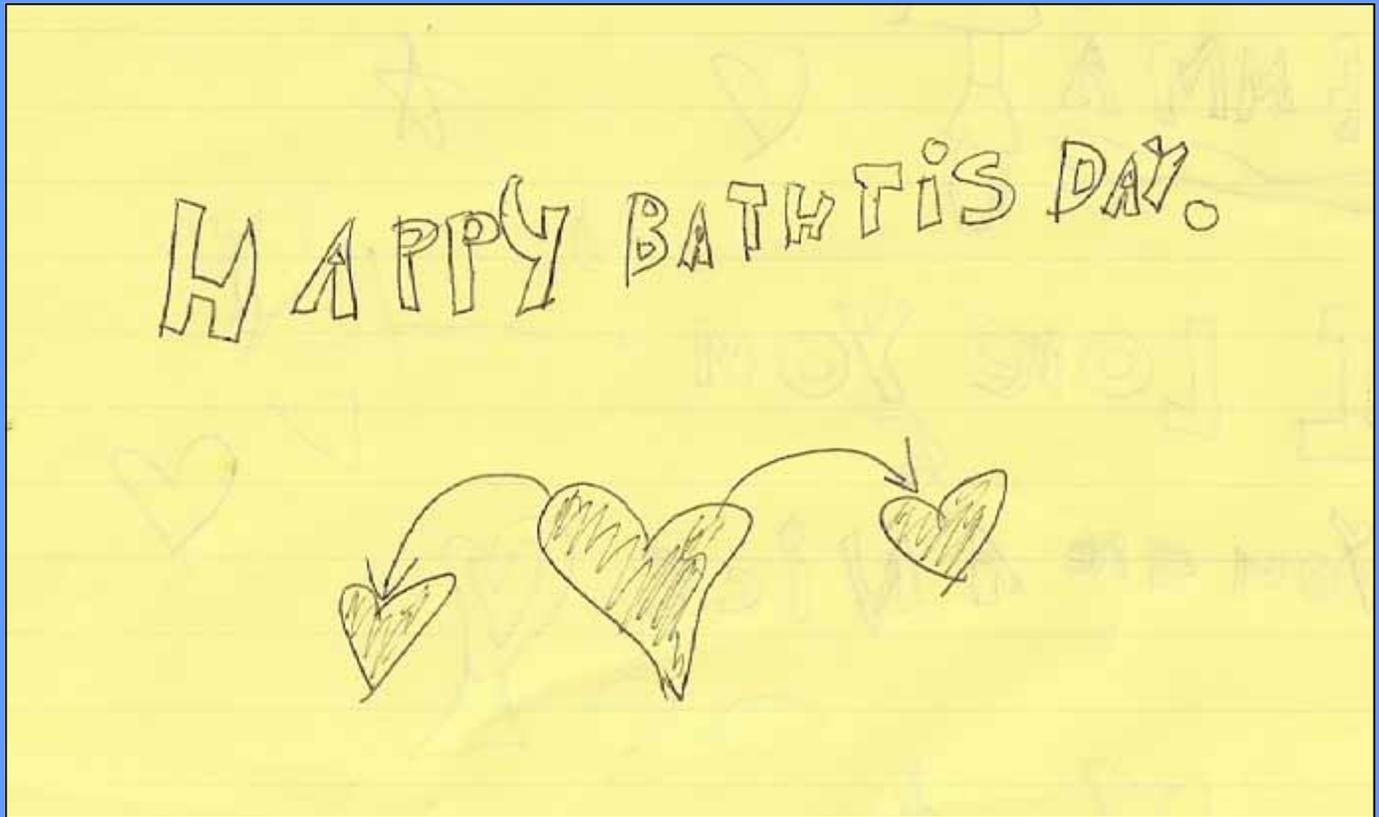
supplies: a Bible!

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

INTERESTED IN A SUMMER MISSION TRIP?

We're exploring a summer mission trip to the UMC Spirit Lake Volunteers in Mission Center on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota – please let Paula Roderick, Fran Markwardt, or Clayton Parr know if you are interested, and your availability to get away for a week at the end of July! (emails are, respectively: fairjust@sbcglobal.net; franmarkw@att.net; cparr@depaul.edu). Folks of any skill level, aged 13-90, are welcomed!

BAPTISM REFLECTION



A picture by Carla Ngoma inspired by her excitement that Emma Rodriguez was back and that Emma was baptized on Sunday, March 21st!

PROJECT BROADWAY

Saturday, April 10

9:00 am — Coffee and Coffeecakes

12:30 pm — Lunch and in between a little bit of “housework.”

Everyone needs a makeover once in a while and the church is no exception. Please join us for a morning of fellowship, pruning, window washing, raking, camaraderie, fridge cleaning, pothole patching, toy sorting, joyful community, closet organization and food, of course! There will be physically easy tasks and ones that will provide a workout if you want one! Coffee will be ready at 9 am. Even if you can only stop by for an hour or two, please come help give the Broadway “Star” a little face-lift!

Also, if you have noticed anything that should be on the “To Do” list, let Vincent Wiggins, Lori Tubbs or Kathy Wurster know. 200 pairs of eyes are better than just our three pairs.

APRIL MISSION MINUTE

Dr. Bemm at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya is Broadway's Mission Minute for April. Dr. Bemm visited Broadway with his son in March 2009 while on leave after he and his family spent their first five years in western Africa. Last September he returned to Kenya with his wife Amy and four children for the first of another five years at Tenwek. Hannah, their adopted Kenyan baby, is now 3.

He treats many babies and children that appear from a medical standpoint to be without any hope, yet with care they receive miraculous healing. Two newborn triplets nearly dead from dehydration, the third died at home, recovered beautifully and went home looking great. As the only pediatrician, he feels the Lord has called him to serve orphans and needy families with medical care. Parents die of AIDS, their children are placed in jail. He gets them released and moved to an orphanage.

Dr. Bemm and his family demonstrate love and discipline to Kenyan families. Tenwek Hospital offers compassionate medical care to those needing health services, including clinical services to all. Training programs are also provided for staff and community. The hospital's slogan "We treat, the Lord heals!"

Your contributions will help provide Kenyan medical needs. May the Lord continue to bless the Bemms as they bring Christ's message of caring healing love to the people of Kenya.



For more information about Tenwek Hospital, visit www.tenwek.org.

April's Mission Minute Sunday is **April 11, 2010**. However, you can make donations to *Tenwek Hospital* throughout the month. To donate, mark your envelope or check with the Mission Minute. (Make check out to Broadway Church but be sure to mark your donation for *Tenwek Hospital* or April Mission Minute.)

TRANSITIONAL TEAM

Several files have been uploaded to the Broadway Connect group from the Transitional Team, including agendas for each scheduled meeting December through March and draft minutes from the January and February meetings.

We apologize for the delay in getting these posted, as it was our intention to do so earlier. Because we rotate recording secretary duties, draft minutes from December are pending. (We've also posted hard copies of the agenda and minutes on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary for those who are not internet users.)

Our March 14 meeting did not have a quorum so the March meeting has been rescheduled, as announced earlier, for March 28th at 12:30 pm; our **April meeting is scheduled for April 19 at 7:00 pm**. All our meetings are open; we meet in the Sanctuary and welcome all!

Please let one of the pastors or one of the co-lay leaders know if you have questions.

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT



Have you ever wanted to work on the sound system to record the services or program the media for the on-screen display? Now's your chance to do so. We are training people who have had an interest in media/sound and want to learn how.

Please sign-up on the sheet on the table in Friendship Hall or contact Richard Holley (dbz1973@hotmail.com) or Latoya Thorn (afrocentricbeauti@yahoo.com) to discuss times for training.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Can we do likewise nearly 100 years later?

“Cheering and Handclapping Accompany the Reading
of Broadway’s Achievements at Conference”
(excerpt)

from *Church News*, October 1915

When Dr. Lesemann, our District Superintendent, announced that our church had paid its mortgage and that its benevolences were full for the first time in her history, the conference clapped their hands and cheered the victory.

Our benevolences totaled \$1,128 this year. The best we have ever done before was something like \$850. When we see this in the light of the other financial victories of the year it is a triumph indeed.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

May Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **May 2010** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, April 18th**. 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

April 2010

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

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

Office Manager: Alexia Kruger
broadwayc@ameritech.net

Outreach Ministry: Rev. Kevin A. Johnson, Bloom in the Desert
revkev@bloominthedesert.org

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

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