



Broadway
United Methodist Church



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The Broadway — November 2012

Letter from Lois

To everything (turn turn turn). There is a season (turn turn turn). And a time to every purpose under heaven. ~ Pete Seeger, based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

November begins with the U.S. Presidential election and ends with chosen families gathering around tables giving thanks...and all the while we kick up the red, orange, yellow, and brown leaves beneath our feet and think of the turning of the seasons.

I read somewhere that autumn is the changing of the color of the leaf on the branch; fall is after the branch is empty and the leaf is underfoot. There's something about that idea that captures me: the move from the brilliance of a full, red tree to stark branches reaching skyward and dead leaves on the ground. The reminder that we, too, go through these seasons of brilliance and "fall" – moving from the highs, the optimism, the successes of our lives to the lows, the dread, the failures. And we, like the seasons, depend on the continuation of turning: life moving forward. After all, under the dead leaves, the ground is already preparing itself for a winter of restoration so that the spring buds will come again...

As I write, the political ads are everywhere and early voting has begun; the rhetoric of a nation divided has reached amazing proportions, and people are dreaming about November 7 when the frenzy is over. But on November 7, regardless of who is elected, we'll be continuing to hold onto the hope and promise of a future that is better – and we'll hold our elected officials accountable to the justice we demand as people of faith.

By the end of the month, as we open our doors at Broadway for the Annual Tony Vega Memorial Thanksgiving Feast, we'll do our small part to extend the table to those who are hungry or to those whose family is the chosen gathering of church people in the basement.

These things are connected for me: the simple act of setting a table and cooking a meal, and the complex act of participating in systems of power to insist on justice. And I'm reminded by the seasons of leaves turning and falling – and my own seasons of being brilliant and then failing – that we keep moving forward in faith, trusting that the One who gives us life also gives us the promise that whatever is happening today is meant to be a step on the path to tomorrow.



Stepping with you, in hope,

Lois

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

Vernice's View

As I write this article, I am yet reflecting on the 10th anniversary celebration of the Church Within A Church Movement (CWACM) that was held on October 19-21, here in Chicago. The weekend was powerful, inspirational, educational and motivational. There were many life changing instances during our time together. Amazing educational opportunities and community time where we met new people. There were social events that taught us how to be community in a different way. CWACM is a movement of heart and soul. Our mission is to inform the lost and hurt souls that there is a home with us; a home that is safe and loving; a home where we might find solace and refuge. We challenge ourselves to be that wherever we are and in all circumstances – meetings, worship, workshops, social events – our attempt is to BE and invite others to BE.

I sometimes find that difficult, because we are a society of structure and tradition and we are asked, continually to fit ourselves into boxes that often restrict growth and stifle the authentic person we are striving to become. Yet, our 10th anniversary event was a time where everyone was invited, and even encouraged, to step outside oppressive boxes and just BE. That message is the heart of our theological and core values statements. These statements of faith give us permission to just be ourselves, minus the oppressive boxes that we often allow to define us. When we are able to move beyond the boxes, it is an exhilarating, liberating moment; one that frees the spirit in us and the Spirit around us.

It is with that context of freedom that I met with the Extraordinary Ordination Work Area to request a transfer of my clergy credentials to CWACM. It has been a long process of discernment with God and with many companions to come, finally, to this decision. I was ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and I love my ordaining body because much of my heritage and cultural foundation are there. I will claim and embrace that foundation forever. It is a part of who I am. However, I find that in this moment in my life and ministry, my need is for a body that will allow for my theological and spiritual expansion. I have found that in CWACM. It is a place of freedom and motivation; a place that continually challenges me to step outside of my oppressive boxes and embrace the whole person that God has created in me. When I can be myself, I am more able to encourage others to be the same. And so it was by unanimous consensus that my application for transfer was accepted. I am excited to claim in a different way this Movement of love and freedom.

I want to thank you Broadway, for your love and support. It is because of your courage and your unflinching support and encouragement that I am able to embrace this opportunity in faith and not fear. And so our journey continues in new and exciting ways. I am continually amazed at how God speaks truth and love even in the most challenging times and circumstances. I am most thankful!



In Truth and Justice,

Vernice

Rev. Vernice L. Thorn,

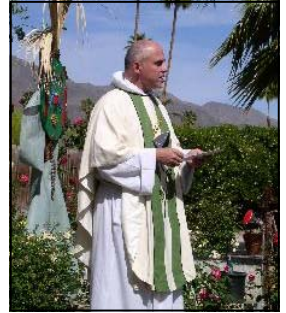
CWACM Clergy



Kevin's Korner

November 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)



November reminds us to be thankful. I am thankful for the time Mike and I spent with the Broadway congregation on Sunday, October 21. We tried something new in "sermon" formatting. We also did our best to say what being part of the Broadway congregation means to us – Rev. Kev for 30 years, Mike for about a dozen. We are thankful for your being a major part of our foundation as we continue building Bloom's ministries that reflect and apply our mutual values. Your continued financial support is vital to Bloom's viability and vitality.

I am thankful for the Church Within A Church Movement, too. With a major infusion of Broadway people's DNA, the movement was born 10 years ago. The combination of Broadway and CWACM is what nourished us enough to be able to survive our earlier years of new-church-starting. We always felt like that combo was a manifestation of God's spiritual energy – the Holy Spirit – powering us to keep going.

As we look to "the season" now unfolding before us, we find ourselves living in the rhythm of life that plays out here. Snow birds are beginning to return. Our Fall Congregational Meeting was well attended. People described their exciting dreams for Bloom. This is our 10th season. Each one has been a bit more solid than the previous. Experts say a new church start remains vulnerable, even with healthy and skilled leadership, for at least 15 years. Consequently, while we have a decade of experience, our road is still precarious.

That is why we are thankful for you and everyone else who contributes prayers, presence, service and dollars to help Bloom grow. The combination of Bloomers and friends, near and far, is what makes real the beloved community we hope to be.

As you consider your late winter plans, why not plan to be with us in Palm Springs in March? That's the month for Bloom's 10th Anniversary Celebration of continuous Sunday morning worship on March 10th at 10 a.m. If you want to make a big trip of it, think about planning to be here for our Fourth Annual Spring Fling Cabaret fundraiser on Friday evening, March 1, 2013. It would be GREAT to have you here.

BTW – Check out Bloom's new public [YouTube channel](#). Also, go to www.bloominthedesert.org to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, "BloomNotes."

As always, we ask you to please keep us in your prayers. You mean so much to us.

Peace,

Rev. Kev and Mike Shear



ADVENT WORSHIP PLANNING

Envisioning Advent — Saturday, November 3rd

Please join us on Saturday, November 3rd from 10:00am to 1:00pm to work on worship planning for Advent. If you have questions or would like to participate but cannot attend, contact Carol McPherson at carol.mcperson@garrett.edu.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 6, 2012: VOTE! -- use your power!

ELEVATOR UPDATE

Broadway family, As you've no doubt noticed, our lift (elevator) is broken...well...it has completed its service of 23 years, and repair after repair on a lift for which parts are no longer available requires us to replace the lift to continue to be an accessible building.

What this means:

- we are seeking bids for the cost of replacement
- we are exploring grants to support accessibility (23 years ago, the city supported the installation of the lift with such a grant; however, those city grants are no longer available, so we are looking other directions)
- when we are ready to do the project, we will need to withdraw from Broadway's Invested Funds -- and this will require a congregational meeting and a nearly-unanimous vote (7/8).

Property Caregivers are considering that we might add a couple other capital (building) improvements and consider the possibility of withdrawing funds to cover a few other needed things as our building grows older -- you might say we would be moving our investment from the (not-so-fruitful) fund market to the keeping our property asset strong!

Please consider this notice the first step in our congregational conversation about what it means to move money in order to be faithful stewards of our property and to be faithful to our commitment to inclusivity (which also includes accessibility). We're also hopeful that our stewardship this year can give you the chance to pledge to a building fund.

Questions (or can you help us find a grant)? Please speak with MJ or Lois!

Sincerely,

MJ Grimshaw, Chair, Property Caregivers

SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR

Adult Education: Sunday Morning Scriptural Meditation **from 10-10:45am** in the Pillow Room.
Children's Education at 11:15am (following A Time for Young Christians at the 11:00 service).

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Come join us on **Monday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm** for a relaxed and informal bible study in the Wesley Room. We are studying the book of the prophet Isaiah.

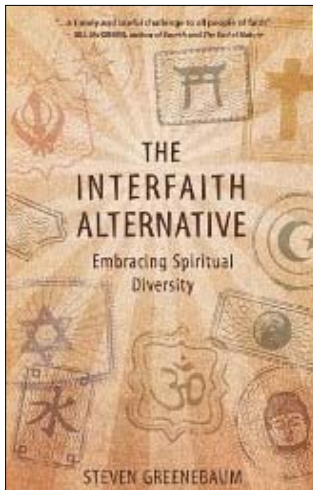
All are welcome to join in and there is no required homework. This study is led by our very own Tom Hope.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Sanctuary Prayer is open to the church and community **each Wednesday from 5:30-6:00 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 Sanctuary 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: *The Interfaith Alternative, Embracing Spiritual Diversity* by Steven Greenebaum



"There is no them. There is only us, celebrating our common humanity. The Interfaith Alternative shows us how we can celebrate each other without fear of losing our own identity. At its core, Interfaith is about community and justice."

About the Author: Rev. Steven Greenebaum is an interfaith Minister with Masters Degrees in Mythology, music and Pastoral Studies. His experience directing Jewish, Methodist, Presbyterian and interfaith choirs have helped him to understand the profound wisdom of many spiritual traditions. Steven has dedicated his life to working for social and environmental justice through a multitude of forums. He is the founder of the Living Interfaith Church in Lynnwood, Washington.

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Pillow Room.

We invite you to this challenging and timely discussion. It is a natural progression to the inclusive work we embrace. You can order your book from [Amazon](#) ISBN 978-0-86571-705-3. Join us. Bring a friend. Please contact [Rev. Vernice](#) for more information.

NOVEMBER MISSION MINUTE

The Mission Minute for November is BARC. (www.balidogrefuge.com)

Thanks to one of our Global Market vendors, Sara Davis and Erika Herrera of Sandpiper Imports, the Sowers were introduced to BARC: Bali dogs Adoption and Rehabilitation Center. BARC was founded by Linda Buller. BARC is not a shelter; it is a rehabilitation facility for injured and abused dogs. BARC provides a place for street dogs to be cared for, nurtured and brought back to good health with the hope of adopting them out to local families and permanent residents of Bali.

BARC had humble beginnings. Originally located in Linda's home in central Ubud, her house quickly became overrun with animals so she found and secured an abandoned gallery on the outskirts of town. Utilizing the bricks and mortar, she added to the structure to include various pens for infectious, recovering, healing and the happy dogs. BARC also has a kitchen and small office space.

But, at the end of 2012, the lease on this property will expire with no renewal. BARC is now searching for property to create a purpose built dog sanctuary. The sanctuary will be home to the unadoptable dogs with health or mental conditions. They will live out their retirement there along with dogs awaiting adoption. BARC is desperately trying to get donations from far and wide to ensure this dream becomes a reality for their beloved dogs. It says that 100% of the donations it receives "go to the dogs."

To learn more about the Bali street dogs, visit BARC's website, www.balidogrefuge.com, or Sara and Erika's blog about their first experience with Bali dogs:

<https://sandpiperimports.com/until-one-has-loved-an-animal-a-part-of-ones-soul-remains-unawakened-anatole-france/>

Our Mission Minute Sunday is November 11, but you can donate throughout the month – make checks out to Broadway and designate your check or envelope "BARC." You can also donate [online](#).

THANKSGIVING FEAST

Tony Vega Annual Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner

November 22, 2012

Doors open at 1pm, dinner will be served from 2-4pm.



Yes, we're hosting our annual Thanksgiving dinner again this year. You — family, friends, neighbors, homeless youth, community members — are the honored guests. Of course, we'll need lots of help to prepare this feast. We will be posting sign-up sheets at church for anyone who would like to provide side dishes and/or desserts. We will be providing the turkey and hams and will only need volunteers to bake the turkeys and hams. We are also looking for help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Please contact Craig at 773-219-8878 or via email at craig_m_fitzgerald@yahoo.com, or you can also contact the church office.

A PEOPLE'S RALLY



ANCIENT IDOL



MODERN IDOL

Soon after the election, Congress and the President will make decisions about the federal budget that will have profound consequences. They must....

**CHOOSE TODAY
WHOSE INTERESTS THEY WILL SERVE**

JOIN IRON IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST THE IDOL OF CORPORATE GREED &
FOR THE COMMON GOOD

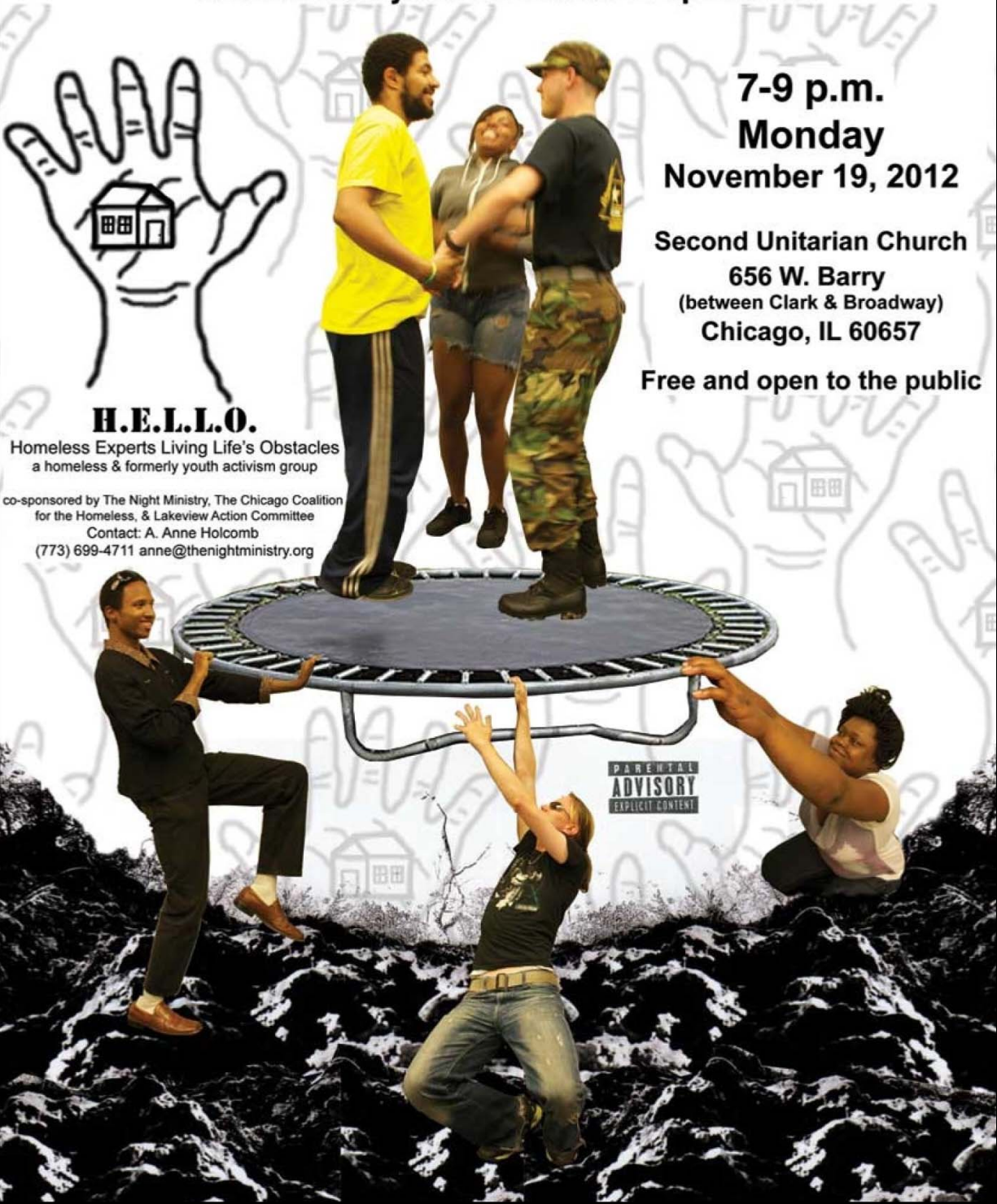
Demand that our elected officials keep their hands off
Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.
Fight back against \$1 trillion budget cuts set to begin on January 1.
Take action against the Bush tax cuts for the top 2%.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 3:00 P.M.
PRITZKER PARK (CORNER OF STATE & VAN BUREN)**



H.E.L.L.O. ART SHOW

ELASTIC LIFE: CLIMBING OUT OF THE ABYSS
a homeless youth art show & speak out



7-9 p.m.
Monday
November 19, 2012

Second Unitarian Church
656 W. Barry
(between Clark & Broadway)
Chicago, IL 60657

Free and open to the public



H.E.L.L.O.

Homeless Experts Living Life's Obstacles
a homeless & formerly youth activism group

co-sponsored by The Night Ministry, The Chicago Coalition
for the Homeless, & Lakeview Action Committee
Contact: A. Anne Holcomb
(773) 699-4711 anne@thenightministry.org

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT**

YOUTH LOUNGE NOVEMBER UPDATE

GOOD NEWS!

We received word that our grant proposal to the Grants for Ministries with Young People with the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship has been reviewed and **we have received a second year of this grant – this time, for 2013, for \$8,500!**

We're grateful to Tracy for putting the proposal together, for all those who helped us with letters of support, and of course to the GBOD GMYP folks who decided to support the Youth Lounge!

Our focus for 2013 is to support a "visioning and empowering" process, designed to help us imagine the future and to develop a strategic plan for the long-term vision for Youth Lounge.

Stay tuned next year as we move ahead with this dreaming!

The Transitional Leadership Team (TLT) for YL is **continuing the process of reviewing applicants** for two part-time, stipend positions for 2013 for YL – an Ambassador/Outreach position (January-June), and an Administrative Assistant position (January-December). Interviews are being scheduled for the next month, and we hope to hire by year's end. The TLT has also come up with a proposal for our future volunteer structure to form a more permanent leadership team for YL, a team which will take on some of tasks not covered by the two staff positions. The YL volunteer team will be reviewing that proposal in the next month also, and we'll move into 2013 with that team. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved.

As a reminder...for the fourth quarter of 2012...

...**Vernice is serving as Volunteer Coordinator.** Please contact Vernice with any questions about volunteering, new volunteers, and future info sessions. You may reach Vernice at akatinyt@hotmail.com.

...Lois will cover grant reporting requirements (for the UMC grant) and financial record-keeping, along with a few administrative tasks. You may reach Lois at gizhilois@yahoo.com.

And...

...the "**Beauty Parlor**" Grand Opening will be at the YL on **November 10!** Staffed by our volunteers, the Beauty Parlor is one of the projects coming out of the Berkowitz Grant award which is designated for creative projects that help young people to build self-esteem. We look forward to seeing this component of the program get started, as our young people deserve the care and nurture that manicures, pedicures, and the Beauty Parlor can provide!

Ways to get involved are ongoing & continuing...donate items, donate time – see Vernice or Lois. Youth Lounge continues to grow and shift as we keep our commitment to this "love work" for the young people who make themselves at home at Broadway on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

STEWARDSHIP

Just a reminder that Commitment Sunday is coming **November 25th**. Be on the look out for more information and our theme for this year in the weeks ahead. If you would like more information you can contact Student Pastor Ben Bower at Benjamin.Bower@Garrett.edu.

WORLD MARKET THANKS

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it took a whole dynamic team to have a successful event. From prayers, to making flyers, passing out flyers, painting signs, being a vendor, attending, set-up, clean-up, obtaining and collecting silent auction items, manning a post, giving Cindy a break, entertainment, guidance and moral support, all were necessary components to make the World Market Event a success.

The Sowers team would like to thank everyone for your support, efforts, and prayers. We are still waiting to hear what the grand total will be but for me the real success is watching everyone working as a team and participants as well as shoppers having a good time.

One last big thank you goes to Lois, Vernice, Alexia, and MJ. Without your patience and guidance we could not have pulled this off. On behalf of the Sowers Team, thank you one and all for assisting in the World Market Event.

Cindy and Jon



LAKEVIEW ACTION COALITION NEWS

Broadway is a member congregation of Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC); as such, we're invited to the conversation about the potential merger of LAC with Organization of the Northeast (ONE). The first public conversation took place at the last Community Council meeting (Susan Armstrong represented Broadway), and there will be other opportunities to be part of the discernment, if you are interested.

Both organizations are currently strong and vital, and the purpose of the merger would be to build a more powerful organization that could more effectively have an impact on social justice issues. LAC and ONE share advocacy efforts around similar issues -- housing, health care, economic justice, to name a few.

The decision making process will be inclusive and will run through the next several months (probably until March 2013). There will be several opportunities for input. If you would like to be involved in this discussion, please reach out to Susan or Lois, or to Jennifer Ritter, the Executive Director of Lakeview Action Coalition at jenrg@lakeviewaction.org or 773-549-1947 x 102.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Church/Charge Conference with our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Zaki L. Zaki has been scheduled for **Tuesday, December 4, at 7pm**. All are invited to this annual meeting.

STEPS FOR EQUALITY

Here's a good read: *Look Both Ways, Bisexual Politics* by Jennifer Baumgardner (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007). This is a jaunty, fearless, personal, and political look at bisexuality today.

Because Jennifer knows that sex is a way we communicate, not just procreate, she gives us a glimpse of a freer future in which sexuality is less about who is talking and more about what is said. ~ Gloria Steinem

Jennifer does a wise and witty job of figuring out the hidden messages and reading them to us in her deliciously cool and contemporary voice: the one that gives us hope for the feminist future. ~ Vivian Gornick, author: *The Solitude of Self*.

I can't believe it's nonfiction! From subway to bathtub and back again, this book reads like a great novel. ~ K. Hanna, founding member of Riot Grrrl.

Jennifer is the big sister you've always wished you had. She is daring, intimate, and raw. She shows you how normal she is, how normal you are. ~ L. Tanenbaum, author of *Slut!* and *Catfight*.

J. Baumgardner elucidates the pivotal — and too often unacknowledged — role that bisexual people are playing in America's social awakening. Ms. Baumgardner unleashes a gentle assault on those of all sexual preferences who would deny the complexity of human sexuality. ~ Johnny Temple, writer and publisher, Alashic Books.

If you want to gain more knowledge of our sisters who are Bisexual, this is a must read.

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

SPIRIT LAKE MINISTRY TRIP 2013

We have secured our dates for the Spirit Lake Ministry trip for 2013. **July 27th through August 2, 2013.** The trip is filled with feel good work as we help build handicap accessible ramps, decks, paint homes, and other rehab work as well as have great fellowship with our fellow parishoners and those of other organizations that week. Spirit Lake Ministry is headed by Mike and Libby Flowers, set in the middle of the Dakota Indian Tribe, Devils Lake North Dakota. The trip is 6 days and costs \$300/person. Included in that price is housing and three meals per day, as well as the chance to experience an actual POW WOW put on by the Dakotas and on camp site demonstrations of Dakota dances, chants and drumming.

Secure your days off for this great trip now and stay tuned for further details. For more information you can contact Craig Fitzgerald at 773-219-8878 or via email at craig_m_fitzgerald@yahoo.com.

November Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **December 2012** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, November 25**. 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

November 2012

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gizhilois@yahoo.com

Pastor: Rev. Vernice Thorn
akatinyt@hotmail.com

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Benjamin.Bower@garrett.edu

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

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.