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*"Thriving" is life-
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*We are invited to
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truly thrive.*

Letter from Lois

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have life abundantly." ~ John 10:10

When I was a college senior, I earned an apartment of my own by working as a resident assistant to ten Cerebral Palsy clients. On call 24/7, I wore a beeper (pre-cellphone era) and responded to emergencies. Daily I had routines to assist the women and men whose disabilities meant that certain regular activities required my physical help. It was 1979, and the ten clients I served were the first to embark on an "experiment" in independent living. They had moved from an institutional dormitory to having their own apartments and a new-found freedom: they were now able to shop and prepare the meals of their choice; they could play cards or watch tv when they felt like it; a guy named Tim planted a garden for the first time in his life.

I was reminded of these days when I attended the first two days of continuing education with Vernice, Chantal, and Cindy last week where we examined the intersections of racism, classism, and ableism. Two persons with CP are part of our group of 24 who are in six days of training, and getting to know them and their story brought back these days of my past. I didn't have the words then, but I learned them last week: it's the difference between "surviving" and "thriving."

"Surviving" is just that – coping, getting by. "Thriving" is life-giving, energizing, filled with possibility. One of our trainers last week talked about this difference in how we use language about disabled and non-disabled persons, how we listen to the stories of our sisters and brothers to know how it is that they want to claim for themselves the preferred language that means "thriving" for them.

It strikes me that this is what the spiritual life is about: as we have moved through Lent and Holy Week and the Passion story to the Resurrection, we move from solemn reflection, to death, and then to life. We are invited in to the story of death defeated, to the story that claims life-giving newness. We are invited to do more than "survive" – we are invited to truly thrive.

Thriving means, too, that our "acts of faith" are the outward and visible signs of an invisible and inward grace. Our actions and movements beyond the four walls of Broadway Church take the assurance we know – that death does not have the last word – into the places where the stench of death can be found: racism and its ugly effects in our nation, violence in our city, school closings in neighborhoods where greater numbers of people live in poverty, SRO closings in our own neighborhood as those who do not value diversity wield political power...it won't take long to find those places where hope has disappeared. A faith that is thriving goes there, acts for justice, and brings hope.

We've had "40 Intentions for Peace" during the Lenten season: these "acts of faith" have helped many of us get in the habit of peace-making and choosing to act for justice. The courage of our faith community has been made visible these days – let's keep thriving!



Marching with you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois".

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



“Acts of faith is more than a theme this year; it is a call to BE transformed in our personal lives, in the life of this faith community and in the world. We’re just about half way through 2013; do it now. There is still time! Each new day is a new beginning.”

Vernice’s View

As I write this article it is snowing and 30 degrees. Yet it is April and my heart is ready for spring. We’ve just come through Lent and Holy Week and Resurrection, a time that calls us to new life; a time that challenges us to look for new possibilities, new directions, new horizons. And that is where I am, looking internally and externally; breathing deeply, listening closely for the Spirit to speak.

That’s how it is with springtime – a time of new beginnings. As everything around us turns green and buds sprout, we too are blooming. We search for fresh ideas; we clean; we make way for something different, novel, innovative — in our personal lives and in the life of our faith community.

At the close of March we had a co-lay leaders meeting. They decided to start afresh and look at new ways of being co-lay leaders. And here is what they decided: Co-lay leaders are the heart and voice of the congregation. They lead, support, encourage, empower and in every way cheer on the congregation. Here is a list of your co-lay leaders: Demetrius Kelsaw, Diana Davis, Victor Poncé, Elina Rodriguez, Reed Melton, Emily Enthof, Megan Kelly, MJ Grimshaw, Sheila Ashby Schultz, Sean Edward Hall, Laurie Lee Moses, Vincent Wiggins, and Cindy Grisom. If you have questions about our church, our struc-

ture, our ministries or outreach; if you see gaps and want to start a new ministry or outreach; if you want to make suggestions about worship or anything that would enhance our worship experience, your co-lay leaders are there to listen and to direct you to the proper person or place. Their pictures will be posted soon so that you can see their lovely faces and identify the ministries they are a part of. We are so thankful for the gifts and dedication they bring to our community. Go co-lay leaders!

As we examine our spiritual lives for places to begin anew, I continue to encourage us to take advantage of our educational opportunities. For the month of April we bring back the 10am Sunday Bible Study, led by our student pastor, Ben Bower. The study will be the Epistle of James. We continue our Open Sanctuary and Guided Meditation from 5:30-6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. The experience is peaceful and energizing. In our Monday morning class, we are completing the book of Psalms and will begin the Book of Esther shortly. Esther is one of the few books where the Biblical story is told around a woman. Using the Women’s Commentary to help us, we will dive into this text looking anew at a book that is seldom seen in our common lectionary. If you are available during the day you won’t want to

miss this study. In our Wednesday night Bible Study we began The Parables of Jesus for Lent and are in the midst of completing this insightful, in-depth study. We move on to look at our common lectionary and study the scriptures that will be used the upcoming Sunday. In this way we prepare ourselves, in a new way, to hear the scriptures and sermon on Sunday morning. We encourage you to dust off your favorite Bible interpretation, commentaries and other resources and join this lively study.

As spring begins we are invited to the idea of resurrection. Let’s turn over those places that are not life giving to places of abundant life. Right now I encourage you to find a quiet place and open your hearts, ears, minds, and arms to all the newness God has for you this year and then act on it. Acts of faith is more than a theme this year; it is a call to BE transformed in our personal lives, in the life of this faith community and in the world. We’re just about half way through 2013; do it now. There is still time! Each new day is a new beginning.

In Truth and Justice,

Rev Vernice Thorn
Pastor Broadway UMC
CWACM, Clergy



Kevin's Korner

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)

March was the most amazing, complex, challenging, full and rewarding month in the history of Bloom in the Desert Ministries. As the old-time hymn goes, "I scarce can take it in."

Bloom's 4th Annual Spring Fling Cabaret and Silent Auction fundraiser was fun and financially successful. One key moment was when Keisha D sang "Skyfall" better than Adele. The crowd leapt to its feet with a standing ovation. Another was when I told the audience: "10 years ago we came here with a vision to start a ministry that is welcoming, encouraging and thoughtful. We started out by placing ads in various papers and welcoming two people into our apartment's living room. Tonight we celebrate 10 years later by welcoming 300 people into the Hilton Palm Springs Ballroom."

Money raised from Spring Fling is accumulated in a restricted fund to assist with paying bills associated with "permanence," meaning helping us have a solid community presence even though we do not have a church building. It contributes as needed to utilities, rent, setup contractors, etc. Spring Fling helps Bloom maintain long-term viability as we are "building a community dedicated to service, friendship and diversity."

Bloom's 10th Anniversary Sunday celebration was awesome. One of the aspects that made it so great is that I was largely out of the loop in the planning and execution of an "all the

stops pulled out" worship gathering in the so-called "sanctinasion" for the first time. The 10th Anniversary Committee took care of everything. All I had to do was walk in the procession with Mike, preach and do some worship leadership. The service was powerful and hugely appreciated by the congregants. I walked on air for about three days after the Anniversary Celebration. You can view lots of photos on my Facebook page.

We were grateful for the many people and church leaders who traveled some very far distances to be with us. Broadway's Rev. Vernice was much appreciated as she carried your love to the group. We were grateful for several members of the Church Within A Church Movement leadership present. Bloom's first two participants, Joe and Ann Brownrigg, traveled from Santa Fe. Our UCC Conference minister and another UCC staff person shared in the good time, as did local colleagues and friends.

Church Within A Church Movement leadership, many at great airfare expense, traveled to have their semi-annual meeting here and build relationships with Bloomers. With Broadway as our model for the kind of church we would hope to start, the vision and collegiality of CWACM gave Mike and me the courage to head out as your "missionaries to the West." The anniversary celebrations confirmed the spirit of what we feel continually called to do.

Broadway alumni Nick Campanile visited on Sunday, March 17. Since it was St. Patrick's Day, Bloom oriented our liturgy to highlight Celtic Christianity. Our Congregation was encouraged to wear green and we spoke of relationship building being the catalyst for Celtic "evangelism." That style is a model for us to employ.

Holy Week provided meaningful Palm Sunday and Easter worship times. The new thing that God inspired was to hold our Maundy Thursday Communion gathering as an outdoor public offering in our Villagefest booth on Palm Canyon Drive. We decided that since Villagefest is a new ministry as a method to grow presence and hospitality in the community, it was right to offer Maundy Thursday communion to "all ye who pass by." For some it was strange. For others it was exciting. In all cases it was Bloom doing ministry while "thinking outside the stained glass window."

Please keep us in your prayers and come visit whenever you can.

Peace,
Rev. Kev and Mike Shear

As the old-time hymn goes, "I scarce can take it in." The anniversary celebrations confirmed the spirit of what we feel continually called to do.

April Mission Minute: Lakeview Pantry



Photo obtained from
(and more information
available at):
www.lakeviewpantry.org

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. Lakeview Pantry operates six days every week at two loca-

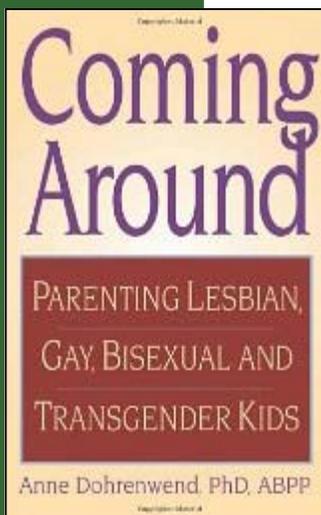
tions, and they are on track to distribute 1.6 million pounds of food this year. In addition to distributing food, Lakeview Pantry **also distributes personal hygiene products, clothing, small household items, and pet food** each year to individuals in need in the Lakeview community. They have weekend and evening hours to accommodate working families, as well as a home delivery program serving homebound elderly and disabled people. LVP's mission could not be accomplished without the work of their 800 volunteers. Less than 3% of their funding comes from gov-

ernment sources; more than 70% comes from individuals. The rest comes from local businesses, philanthropic organizations, and religious communities like Broadway. Let's give to this worthy organization.

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

This April Mission Minute is brought to you by Susan Armstrong and the Sowers.

Steps for Equality



Book Review: *Coming Around: Parenting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Kids* by Anne Dohrenwend, PhD, ABPP.

“Every gay soul knows a thousand blows. This can leave the soul soft & flexible or tough & scarred. The difference is in the healing & in the hoping.

Teach your child resiliency: how to bend without breaking, how to move thru patches of difficulty without getting

stuck in them. With resiliency, no wound is beyond healing. Teach your child hope. Be like the light at the end of the tunnel, the reminder that there is a way out and an end to suffering. Things are getting better for LGBTQs every day. There is every reason to believe that your son or daughter will have a bright future, even if the present seems fraught with difficulty.” (p. 185)

This book contains an appendix of resources: recommended websites, books and movies.

For example, websites on bullying:

EYES ON BULLYING:
www.eyesonbullying.org

STOPSBULLYING:
www.stopsbullying.gov

National Violence Prevention Youth Resource Center:
www.safeyouth.org

IT GETS BETTER:
www.itgetsbetter.org

Gay Family Support:
www.gayfamilysupport.com

Equality In Jesus,
Dee, Emily, Helen

Safe Sanctuary

The Education team is in the process of putting together Broadway's Safe Sanctuary Policy. We meet again on **Saturday, April 6, from 11am to 1pm** in the Sanctuary. It is an open meeting, so if you are interested in joining us, please do. Contact Rev. Vernice with any questions.

Sunday Education Hour

Children's Education Time: **Sundays at 11:15am** (following "A Time for Young Christians" at the 11am worship service).

Adult Education Hour: **Every Sunday morning in April** between the worship services **from 10:00-10:45am** come join Student Pastor Ben Bower for an informal look at the Letter of James. In James we find one of the great questions of our faith life, "What is required of us, action or belief?" All you need to bring is yourself and an interest in growing closer to God!



Weekday Bible Study

Prayerfully, with meditation and journaling, we are finishing our way through the Psalms and will then start the Book of Esther. Please join us **from 10:30am-12noon each Monday** in Room A. Led by Rev. Vernice.

Wednesday Night Live!

Sanctuary Prayer

is open to the church and community **each Wednesday from 5:30-6pm**. 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 6pm on Wednesdays**. If you're interested, come in comfortable clothes for this brief meditation.

Wednesday Night Study

We will finish a study of *The Parables of Jesus* (looking at the richness of story as Jesus used it to address the complex social divides in the world then, and that still exist today) and then begin looking at the weekly Lectionary Scriptures. **7pm each Wednesday** in the Pillow Room.

If you have questions, please contact Revs. Vernice or Lois.

Youth Lounge Update

Youth Lounge will be offering more in April 2013!

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

We are planning another wonderful year for our youth.

KICK OFF APRIL 13th...WE NEED YOU.

In April, we are offering some great things for our youth...

- Art Corner
- Glee the Broadway led by our own Jacqueline Boyd
- Creative Writing
- Clothing Closet
- Smile...Photo Booth
- Beauty Shop

...AND OF COURSE THE MJ DELIGHTS (Family seating style)

Want to hear more? Check out the interview by our own Cindy Grissom and Stacy at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzynY6OQQK0>

Want to find out more? Please contact Cindy Grissom (chicago.cindy11@gmail.com) or Vincent Wiggins (Vincent@vincentwiggins.com / 773.450.6706)

If you would like to join us for the special occasion on April 13th, please contact Eric-Todd Rushing (erictoddrushing@yahoo.com) to attend the next orientation.

The upcoming Youth Lounge dates for April 2013 are **April 13th and 27th**. Please be on the look-out for volunteer sheets for these upcoming dates at Broadway on Sundays!



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 parishioners 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.

Scholarships can be made available (or you may like to contribute a scholarship for someone).

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.

Historical Note

An occasional reminder is always in order.

“Pastor’s Column” (excerpt) from *Church News*, March 1922

The Stewardship of your life. Are you willing to be a Christian Steward? Will you acknowledge God as your Lord and Master? Will you pledge God a definite part of your life? Time, prayer, money? Every member of the Methodist Episcopal Church is asked to become a Christian Steward. Also, every one is asked to tithe, that is pay one-tenth of their entire income for one week and MAKE THAT YOUR DEFINITE EASTER OFFERING to the church. We want our church to be 100%.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

Farewell to Ben

Student Pastor Ben Bower’s last Sunday at Broadway will be **May 5, 2013**. Please join us that day as we celebrate his ministry!



Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the May 2013 issue of The Broadway are due **Sunday, April 21**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to the office at broadwayc@ameritech.net. Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.





Broadway United Methodist Church

3338 N Broadway St
Chicago, IL 60657
www.broadwaychurchchicago.org

Phone: 773-348-2679
Fax: 773-348-2521

Sunday Worship at 8:45 and 11am

Celebrating God's Love for ALL People

BROADWAY'S MISSION STATEMENT

“God calls Broadway United Methodist Church to be a faith community embracing the diversity of our Chicago neighborhood and larger community. We welcome all persons – celebrating the human family’s God-given diversity of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental capacity. We also welcome persons of all social and economic classes and faith backgrounds. At Broadway, we are accepted into God’s nurturing family, which invites us into spiritual growth through worship, study, mission, and social action. We are grateful for the opportunities God gives us to experience and share the love of Christ.”

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gizhilois@yahoo.com

Pastor: Rev. Vernice Thorn

akatinyt@hotmail.com

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Thank you for your commitment to God’s purposes through our faith community!

You can give online at www.broadwaychurchchicago.org

or scan code at right for our donation page.

