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# The Broadway

MAY, 2013

## Letter from Lois

*For lo, the winter is past:  
the flowers appear on the earth  
and the time of the singing of birds is come...  
~ Ecclesiastes*

Last May I was in Tampa, Florida, with a bunch of United Methodists. Those who were with me, in a really big tent (not just a metaphor, but an actual tent), hoped that the global denomination would end its bigotry against the LGBTQ community, as published in its book of order, the *Book of Discipline*.

It didn't happen.

And while we wept at that, we screamed our rage at that, we felt defeated by that, we tried to hold onto hope with a commitment to obedience to God's law of love above any human book.

And we came home.

Sometimes Broadway (or even the Northern Illinois Conference) doesn't feel very much like the rest of the United Methodist Church to me, but I never lose sight of the way in which I experienced God's call to help heal homophobia. A call to help change a big, big, big system that was founded on class meetings and social holiness that has turned into an institution of privilege and charts and a fight for funds. As Texas is practicing age discrimination against ministry candidates over 45, more young clergy leave active ministry. As the "end Malaria" campaign continues, the circle of Bishops meets in secret. As we mourn the passing of justice advocate Bob Edgar, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is on the ground in Boston, Texas, China. As a complaint is filed from Pennsylvania against an East African Bishop, our local Bishop Sally Dyck calls for a Chicago Urban Ministry Strategy Summit.

*All that you touch you Change.  
All that you Change Changes you.  
The only lasting truth is Change.  
God is Change. ~ Octavia Butler*

So I cast my lot with the *obedient to God* ones, who are known as the "disobedient" ones by those who do not agree with us that the fullness of God's extravagant love belongs to everyone. And I live with the paradox that while Broadway struggles financially to make denominational apportionment payments, Broadway also benefits from United Methodist support for Youth Lounge (from both Northern Illinois Conference and the Global Church).

I'm grateful. And I wish there were a way that someone who thinks grace has gone a little too far could meet one of our astonishing young people. Young people whose thriving lives hold onto hope in the face of birth family rejection or home church shame; whose ability to dream cannot be taken away by institutions that deprive them of basic human dignity; whose laughter rings outside my window as surely as the new buds on the trees in spring.

I am grateful for all those who support Youth Lounge – Broadway and beyond, and I am grateful, most of all, for the young people who inspire me and give me love.

The touch of the Divine in them touches me. And *that* God revealed is an easy one to whom I can be obedient.

On the journey with you,



Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

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

# Vernice's View



We offer these Psalms with love and invite you to take some time this month to read, reflect and then write your own Psalm.

I woke this morning after a very tough two weeks with the song “My Help” running through my mind. Our choir sang this song a few weeks ago and so I pulled up the YouTube and listened to it again. It brought tears of joy and healing as I listened to the words of this song and reflected on the Psalms from which it was written, Psalm 91 and 121; All my help cometh from the Lord. And though many challenges still remain, I feel a sense of peace and for that I am thankful. I am also thankful for the people who have come to Monday morning Bible Study bringing heart and conversation as we study and pray together.

As I write this newsletter I am sitting with that class. We have been studying the Psalms since the first of the year, reading one Psalm each day. As we meet we choose the Psalm that was most impactful for us during the week. We read them, we pray them, we discuss them. We learn so much about not only the passages but each other and most of all about a loving God who is able to hear our lament, our praise, our pain, our celebrations, our uncertainty, our hope.

Today's class comes on the heels of a difficult week in our country – the Boston bombings, the fires out of West Texas and for each of us loss and grief of some kind.

As community we recognize the importance of being with one another to share the load of grief, to share the celebrations and to be in dialogue as we dream, hope and heal together. The book of Psalms invites us to bring all aspects of human life into the presence of God in prayer. As we pray we offer to God our authentic selves. I requested that the class write their own Psalms as well to culminate our time together. So we offer these Psalms with love and invite you to take some time this month to read, reflect and then write your own Psalm. Know that as God's beloved we can pray every prayer in confidence knowing that God hears all our prayers.

## Psalms of Lament

Why God? Why is there so much loss? Why do you take away those we love? Why are there so many who are homeless and hungry? Why is there violence and war? Why do we abuse and mistreat each other? Our hearts are aching. We are so angry, God, angry that those who claim to be righteous are leading your people astray in your name; angry, because your people are hurting all around the world. They are sick. There are diseases without a cure. There are countless who are without health care so can't afford the medicine when there is a cure. Where is the Kingdom in all this pain and suffering? Is your love gone? Have you deserted us? Are you listening, God? Even in our pain and anger we know, Sovereign God, we know that you are near. You, O God, are our refuge; we feel your presence even in our distress. Show us the way to remain faithful. Send peace and healing to our frightened hearts. Teach us love for you and for each other. *(written by VBS adult class 2009 – adapted by Vernice Thorn)*

\*\*\*\*\*

Here I am Lord, confused, stuck, rambling, having unhealthy thoughts. Where should I go, what should I do, whom do I trust? I have made so many wrong decisions that have caught up with me. Now what? How do I crawl out of this mess? I am afraid to tell the truth to myself and others. My head is fogged. I am physically and emotionally bankrupt. I hate whining and complaining and feeling sorry for myself. I am in a quandary. I am being too judgmental and opinionated. I hate not being in control and depending on someone else and not myself. So Lord, I need for you to show up now with some direction and discernment. Here you are Lord, just in the nick of time. Why was I worried and making myself crazy? Of course you take care of your kids, you promised.

*(continued on pg. 6)*



# 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](http://www.bloominthedesert.org))*

May brings flowers, right? Well, May in the desert brings a change of pace. It is the time of year when, due to a less complicated calendar, I can concentrate on some new projects.

Therefore, accomplishing something I've wanted to do throughout my career, I recently applied for the Doctor of Ministry Advanced Pastoral Studies Program at San Francisco School of Theology. The School is located North of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Anselmo, California. I plan to complete the program before I turn 65 in five years.

Since Broadway commissioned me to Bloom's ministry in 2002 (along with Mike Shear), I want you to see how I answered the primary narrative statements in the application process. Broadway is an important part of where I come from and who I am.

**A. A short statement of how you are engaged in ministerial leadership, who authorizes your work, and to whom you are responsible.**

As pastor and co-founder of Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Bloom), a United Church of Christ (UCC) and Reconciling Methodist congregation, I am credentialed and in professional covenant three ways: with Bloom, our UCC regional association, and The United Methodist Church (UMC). According to Bloom's bylaws I am the "Minister," functioning in collaborative leadership with Bloom's governing

Open Leadership Team (OLT) and Pastor Parish Team (PPT). I report to Bloom's OLT in close contact with Bloom's three officers, most closely with the moderator (chief lay officer), and the PPT. The PPT is considered my support in the congregation working to ensure that the goals of the minister and the congregation are in alignment.

Officially, I am an ordained Elder in the UMC on Honorable Location as a clergy member of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago. I report annually to the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church. Professionally, I am a Dual Covenant status UCC clergy person with standing recognized by the Eastern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. I report annually to Section B of the association's Ministry Committee.

The complexity of the official and professional status results from the fact that I am an out gay man ordained in the UMC, blocked from serving a UMC, who co-founded a welcoming congregation in September 2002, that decided to affiliate with the United Church of Christ in October 2005. Professionally, I serve by living in the loopholes of one denomination while receiving grace and authorization from another. Bloom celebrated covenants with the UCC and me in April 2007.

**B. A short statement of your reasons for wishing to apply to this program, including particularly your expectation of how it will enrich your ministry.**

After visiting other campuses and considering various programs while on sabbatical in summer 2012, I decided to apply to SFTS because I liked the summer program and loved the location. Living in the Southern California desert, albeit beautiful Palm Springs, my ministerial responsibilities are intense and heightened during the months of "the season." The Coachella Valley is a destination for many snowbirds from October through April. That means the months are jam packed for this sole pastor of a growing new church start. Concentration for studies during a traditionally termed D. Min program would be hobbled. Summer weeks, when the church and personal schedules are less intense, give themselves to education more readily.

Upon meeting (program director) Virstan Choy last summer to discuss the SFTS Advanced Pastoral Studies Program, I became intrigued with the

*(continued on pg. 11)*

*Professionally,  
I serve by  
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from another.*

## Farewell to Ben Bower



Student Pastor Ben Bower's last Sunday at Broadway will be **May 5, 2013**. Please join us that day as we celebrate his ministry! Relationship Builders & Ben's Lay Support Team are hosting a potluck luncheon in his honor.

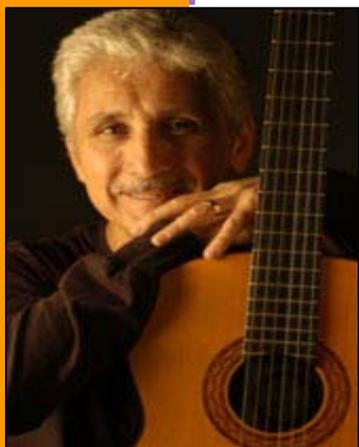
Please bring a side dish to share!

## Rich Rituals

Please join us on **Sunday, May 5th**, to plan our upcoming worship services. We will meet after the luncheon to honor Ben's ministry. We need your passion and creativity!

- Writing prayers
- Reading through collections of prayers and liturgies to find and adapt prayers for our worship here at Broadway
- Designing worship space
- Art – bulletin covers, worship space
- Liturgical Dance
- Music
- Technology/Media
- Other??

If you are interested in worship planning and design but unable to attend the meeting, please contact Carol McPherson at: [carol.mcpherson@garrett.edu](mailto:carol.mcpherson@garrett.edu).



## Pentecost Sunday

**Sunday, May 19 — Osvaldo Vena Returns to Broadway!**

We welcome back Osvaldo Vena & his band on this special Sunday of celebrating Pentecost.

In witness to this festival day, you are requested to **wear red**, the color of the day. We will embody the power and fire in the Spirit together.

## Save the Date

**Saturday, July 27 at 10:30am (luncheon follows):**  
Memorial Service Celebrating the Life of Bob Lill.

# Safe Sanctuary Meeting

May 18, 2013, from 11am-1pm in the Sanctuary.

Questions? Contact Co-Lay Leader Diana Davis ([davis.diana72@gmail.com](mailto:davis.diana72@gmail.com)) or Heather Fuller Bland ([hsfbland@yahoo.com](mailto:hsfbland@yahoo.com)).

## Children's Education

**Call for more team leaders** for Children's Education Time. Children's Education Time is dedicated time for our young people during the 11am Sunday Worship Service. Our young people remain in the service until *The Time for Young Christians* and then they leave for their own class. We have a wonderful team already established who are leading and teaching our young children. Thank you all for the great work. If you have an interest in this type of ministry, let Pastor Vernice know and we will get you trained and acclimated to the team. The rotation is usually one Sunday every other month. We have teams scheduled through the month of June and will plan special events for July and August – which may include sing alongs and outings to the lake – spiritual scavenger hunts...special story hours, fun outdoor stuff! Again if you have ideas, please let [Rev. Vernice](#) know.



## Bible Study

The Book of Esther opens with a description of an enormous 180 day party thrown by King Achashverosh in his third year as king of the Persian Empire, ruling over 127 provinces. As the days of the feasting draw to a close, he summons his wife Vashti, to show off her beauty by appearing wearing only her crown, she refuses and is banished...come and hear the rest of the story! All are invited. **10:30am-12noon each Monday** in Room A. Led by [Rev. Vernice](#).

**Bible Study On Line – Coming Soon!!!** If you have expertise concerning online tools, we would love to talk with you. We want to set up as many forums as possible for people to have access to spiritual growth and community. Get in touch with Co-Lay Leader Elina Rodriguez at [intrpid@sbcglobal.net](mailto:intrpid@sbcglobal.net).

## 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.

If you have questions, please contact [Revs. Vernice](#) or [Lois](#).

### Wednesday Night Study

The Revised Common Lectionary Study is a lectionary readings or periscopes from the Bible for use in Protestant Christian Worship, making provision for the liturgical year with its pattern of observances of festivals and seasons. These are the scriptures that are used on Sunday morning. If you want to know more about the background of why they are used and to study them each week, join us. If you have a favorite study Bible or commentary, please bring them and join us at **7pm each Wednesday** in the Pillow Room.

# People of Color Discussion Group

Look for more information in the bulletin and on the yahoo group. If you are a Person of Color and would like to join the discussion, please be in touch with Co-Lay Leader Reed Melton ([reed\\_melton@yahoo.com](mailto:reed_melton@yahoo.com)) or Latoya Thorn ([afrocentricbeauti@yahoo.com](mailto:afrocentricbeauti@yahoo.com)).

Serious work around internalized oppression coming this fall.

# Young Adult Group

**Join the Young Adult Group to watch Malynda Hale's online concert.**

The Young Adult Group invites you to join us in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, May 8, from 8:30-9:30 p.m.** to watch our very own Malynda Hale perform an online concert.

She will be taking requests to sing either her original or cover songs during the show. Send any song requests to Malynda ([malynda@malyndahale.com](mailto:malynda@malyndahale.com)) by **Wednesday, May 1.**

There will be a \$5 donation to attend.

# Vernice's View (continued from pg. 2)

You have sent me community. You have sent me truth. I am calm. I will listen. Move over everybody, I need to get out my window and climb the stairs to the roof and yell out to the busy people below to stop and listen while I shout out how amazing and kind and awesome you are to me! *(written by Dominic Bialecki)*

## Psalms of Thanksgiving

Praise God for creating us as we are, in your image. We praise you for peace of mind and enjoying the silences. We thank you for your signs of renewal and rejuvenation as the seasons change. Praise God for creating those whom we love. We celebrate the joys of community and the opportunities you provide for us to grow closer. We thank you for our senses, for sight, sound, smell, and touch. God continue to shine your beautiful face on us. Amen. *(written by Psalm class 2009 – adapted by Vernice Thorn)*

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From Psalm 46: God is our refuge and strength, a tested help in times of struggle. And so we need not fear even when we lose our loved ones on earth. Even when bigotry, sexism, racism, separates us in our lives and at our work place; I fear not, because I know that God is in charge of the universe and I know that nothing can separate us from God's love. *(written by Helen Nagel, Allies for Change)*

To the Monday morning Bible Class thank you for staying the journey with me and for the spiritual growth that we claim together.

In Truth and Justice,



Rev Vernice Thorn  
Pastor, Broadway UMC; CWACM, Clergy

# THE QUESTION OF PEACE & JUSTICE

Palestine, Israel, the Church, and You



FR. DR. JAMAL KHADER  
Co-AUTHOR OF KAIROS  
PALESTINE Document

Photo courtesy of Catholic Church (England & Wales)

Come for a **FREE Lecture** and round table discussion with **Father Jamal Khader**, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and theology professor at Bethlehem University. Fr. Khader was born in the Christian Palestinian village of Zababdeh in the northern part of the West Bank. He is a co-author of the *Kairos Palestine* document ([www.kairospalestine.ps](http://www.kairospalestine.ps)) which calls Christians to work for just peace in the Holy Land.

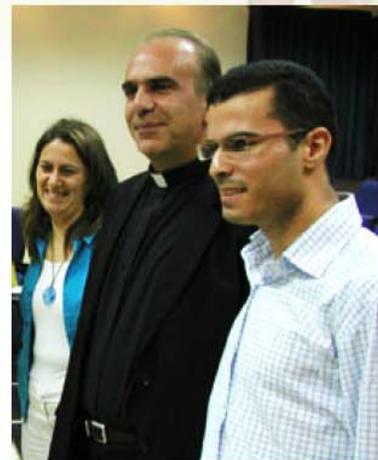
- What are the realities of life for Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Holy Land?
- What can we learn from the challenges facing the people of Palestine and Israel?
- What does it mean to love our neighbor in the context of Palestine and Israel?

Sponsored Jointly by SCUPE, Chicago Northwestern District of the UMC, and ELCA *Peace Not Walls Campaign*

**Register Now For This Free Lecture**

**7:00pm – 8:30pm | Tuesday, May 7th**

*Refreshments available 6:30–7:00pm*



**First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple**

77 W. Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602

Discounted parking available with [advance registration](#)



## May Mission Minute: Spirit Lake

[www.spiritlakenation.org](http://www.spiritlakenation.org)

**Our Mission Minute Sunday is May 12**, but you can donate throughout the month – make checks out to Broadway and designate your check or envelope to Spirit Lake or May Mission Minute. You can also donate online.

*This May Mission Minute is brought to you by Clayton Parr and the Sowers.*

# Spirit Lake: Update from Lois

We are excited that Broadway will be joined this year by youth from Euclid Ave. UMC (Oak Park) and members of Out of the Box Ministries as we head to North Dakota for a week of ministry with the people of the Dakota Tribe who live on the Spirit Lake Reservation. We partner with Spirit Lake Ministry Center (a UMC ministry) and Mike & Libby Flowers, who work with the Tribal Council to prioritize the work visiting teams do. Work ranges from building accessibility ramps to painting houses to repairing roofs to working with Reservation children to cleaning the clothing or food storage areas at the Center: there is something for everyone and every skillset!

The partnership in ministry is a terrific opportunity to build relationships with Broadway team members, team members from the two other congregations joining us, and with the Tribal people of Spirit Lake. Being on the Reservation also provides an opportunity to learn more about the way

Native peoples have been treated in U.S. history, as well as the way in which they face racism today. I believe this ministry is connected to our congregation's anti-racism declaration as we seek to find ways to be allies with our Dakota sisters and brothers.

Travel is yet to be determined, but there may be two caravans departing at different times, so stay tuned for details (those who are interested in the Tribe's PowWow celebration will want to be in the early shift to be there Saturday, July 27).

The \$300 cost of the week of ministry covers the dorm room and meals while at the Center; some scholarship support is also available.

If you have questions about Spirit Lake, talk with Broadway folks who've been there – Diana Davis, MJ Grimshaw, Craig Fitzgerald, Susan Armstrong, Amy Daigler, Clayton Parr, and Lois Parr.

## A Dakotah Prayer

*Grandfather, Great Spirit, you have been always, and before you nothing has been, there is no one to pray to but you. The star nations all over the heavens are yours, and yours are the grasses of the earth. You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer.*

*Grandfather, Great Spirit, look upon your children, the Spirit Lake Oyate, that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the day of quiet.*

*Grandfather, Great Spirit, fill us with the light, Give us with the light. Give us the strength to understand and eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft earth, as relatives, to all that live.*

*Help us, for without you we are nothing.*

# Spirit Lake Mission Trip Info Sheet

## Information sheet for summer mission trip to Spirit Lake Dakotah Nation; Devils Lake, North Dakota

**WHEN:** Arrival in ND by Sunday evening, July 28, return home late Friday night August 2.

The reservation is hosting a pow-wow the weekend we arrive – this is a good way to see a contemporary expression of Native American culture if some want to arrive early.

**GETTING THERE:** It's a 14 hour drive from Chicago to Spirit Lake. It's doable in one very long day. BUMC and Out of the Box Ministries is hoping to rent a bus. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would be interested in that option. If we drive: we could opt to break up the trip, leave Saturday, and stay somewhere enroute – in our experience one does arrive fresher and ready to work this way, but it does add the expense of a hotel enroute. We would need people to volunteer vehicles to drive.

Amtrak leaves Chicago daily at 2:15pm, arrives in Devils Lake at 6:13am the next morning. Return trip leaves Devils Lake at 11:32pm, arrives Chicago 3:55pm. Current posted one-way coach prices start at \$134. Sleeping cars are extra. More info at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

**WHERE WE ARE:** The Ministry Center is an 80 acre former youth camp on the edge of the reservation. Accommodation is in summer-camp style dormitory housing, plain

bunk beds, gender-separate, in cabins that could house as many as 20. Most people bring sleeping bags to put on them. Bathroom facilities are separate from the sleeping quarters. The cabins are rustic (wood floors, no air conditioning) but they are in the shade, providing some relief from what can be very hot prairie summer weather. Meals are simple, nothing fancy. Breakfast – scrambled eggs, oatmeal, toast, sometimes biscuits and gravy, etc. Lunch is usually sandwiches, sometimes served at the job site. Typical dinners are spaghetti, fried chicken, etc. It can be difficult to accommodate specialized dietary needs.

**WHAT WE DO:** There are typically two main types of projects we're involved in: "hammer-and-nails" projects (renovation, handicapped ramp construction, painting, etc.) and working with children on the reservation through the Ministry Center's Sidewalk Sunday School program – this is a trailer with craft supplies that is towed to the settlements on the reservation. We work with the children, give them craft projects, play with them. Sometimes there are work projects around the Ministry Center (maintenance, working with their clothing or food banks, cooking for us and the other teams, etc.) Specific projects are chosen by the Ministry Center leaders in cooperation with tribal leadership, and we probably won't know exactly what we might be doing until shortly before we arrive.

**NOTE:** While the work we do normally doesn't require a lot of technical expertise or training, it can be physically and spiritually demanding (even the work with children). Those who go should be prepared to put in a full day of hard work every day.

**WHAT IT COSTS:** The Ministry Center charges visiting teams \$60 per day per person for room and board (\$300 for the week) --- includes all meals while we are there. This does not include meals while traveling. Transportation costs are also not included – we will solicit donations to cover gas expenses for those who drive.

There is some scholarship money that can be applied for through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) that can cover most (but not all) of the \$300 room and board charge for those who apply and qualify. See Clayton Parr for information about the VIM scholarship funds.

**UPDATES:** Watch the bulletin board and the BUMC newsletter for updates about this exciting opportunity to do radical service work. For more information, feel free to contact:

Craig Fitzgerald – 773-274-2263;  
[craig\\_m\\_fitzgerald@yahoo.com](mailto:craig_m_fitzgerald@yahoo.com)

Clayton Parr – 224-436-0415;  
[claytonparr@mac.com](mailto:claytonparr@mac.com)

Paula Roderick - 312-342-0575;  
[fairjust@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fairjust@sbcglobal.net)



Bishop Sally Dyck is calling for United Methodists in the City of Chicago and surrounding Chicagoland to come together to begin the development of an urban strategy for the United Methodist Church in Chicago.

## Chicago Urban Strategy Summit Saturday, May 18 @ 9 am- 12 noon

8- 9 am Registration  
9- 10 am Worship & Vision Casting  
10- 11 am Break-out Sessions  
11- 11:45 am Reporting & Covenant Making  
11:45- 12 noon March for Peace & Planting of Peace Pole

### South Shore International College Preparatory High School

(1955 E. 75th Street, Chicago, IL 60649)

Parking is available in school's parking lot, in the southwest corner of the school building. Additional parking is also available at an adjacent park. The building is handicapped accessible.

### Registration Required by May 15.

To Register, visit: [http://www.umcnic.org/k\\_eventdetail.php?id=2482](http://www.umcnic.org/k_eventdetail.php?id=2482)  
or call Debbie Rogers, 312-346-9766 ext. 732

**There is no charge for this event.**

***Bring a team! Let's fill the auditorium!***  
***Choose your area of focus: Community Safety,***  
**Restorative Justice, Education and Literacy, Food Deserts**

The summit will engage UMs to help our churches make a difference in the Chicago communities by joining in a coordinated movement and not just the efforts of individual congregations. The morning will include an overview and challenge from United Methodist leaders, and we expect the Mayor's Office to be present.

We will spend the majority of the time divided into several areas that a steering team has identified as the beginning of our work on an urban strategy: Community Safety, Restorative Justice, Education and Literacy and Food Deserts. Here, we'll work to identify what is already being done so we can celebrate and learn from best practices as well as to identify what each congregation can do in gradual levels of capacity in all 60 communities where we have a United Methodist presence in the City.

## Kevin's Korner (continued from pg. 3)

multidisciplinary track. The Rev. Dr. Choy referred to the D. Min project as an opportunity for Bloom to work together with me to teach something to the church at large. This excited me as I saw a way to have my congregation partner with me in the doctoral program.

Another reason I decided to apply to SFTS is that the M. Div. program at United Theological Seminary (UMC-related) in Dayton, Ohio, where I studied, concentrated on practical education in a contract learning environment. There were no traditional grades, it was

pass, incomplete or fail. Evaluations were primarily narrative. Seeing a similar practice at SFTS added to my sense of "good fit" for my educational experience.

The campus is a commanding place. The historical buildings and amazing views are captivating. I was charmed by the look of what I imagine Switzerland to be. The dramatic change of scenery for me, from Palm Springs low desert to San Anselmo seminary mount, was charming. It moved me.

Engaging the program will enrich my ministry because when I am studying, I am quick to put into practice what I learn.

Bloom's ministry will be favored as I share learning and live the ministry the learning empowers. I think the Bloom congregation will enjoy being a laboratory for discovery and experimentation. I am thrilled that I will be able to apply what I learn to help Bloom continue to grow and function as a vital resource for faith, justice, the arts and community.

As always, please keep us in your prayers and come visit whenever you can.

Rev. Kev and Mike

## Steps for Equality

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

Researchers have begun to study how having the quality of resiliency affects LGBTQs as they function, meet obstacles and

mature. They make friends with other sexual minorities. They cope with mental health issues before they multiply. Resilient homeless LGBTQs display certain survival skills. They: avoid fights & conflicts with police-are able to identify safe locations, places to sleep & places to go in bad weather. They are able to get around, get the things they need & find food without having money. When they need money, they find a way to get some. They are able to deal with agencies & services. They identify & avoid people who might steal from them. They identify & keep in touch with people who will look out for them & people from whom they can learn. Researchers found that, unfortunately, after 6 months on the street, these resilient behaviors begin to degrade. More work is needed to explore how survival strategies can be supported, maintained & perhaps taught to homeless children. Resilient GLBTQs are psychologically ready to come out.

*Equality in Jesus, Helen Emily, Dee*

## Historical Note

### A summer tradition worth reviving?

"Sunday School" (excerpt) from *Broadway Methodist*, June 1923, by J.J. Vollertsen

The combined Sunday school and church picnic will be held on June 30 at Lincoln Park. We expect to be on the island which is reached by crossing the bridge at Cornelia Ave. Scholars will be ready to leave the church at 10:30am and will march over in a body. Refreshments will be in charge of Mesdames Thorpe, Oetting and Sharp, and all are urged to bring along a lunch. Come prepared to enter into the games and races and have a good time.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

## Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the June 2013 issue of The Broadway are due **Sunday, May 19**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to the office at [broadwayc@ameritech.net](mailto:broadwayc@ameritech.net). Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.



**We are considering discontinuing the newsletter. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please contact the office or Rev. Lois.**



## **Broadway United Methodist Church**

3338 N Broadway St  
Chicago, IL 60657  
[www.broadwaychurchchicago.org](http://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.”

**Pastor: Rev. Lois McCullen Parr**

[gizhilois@yahoo.com](mailto:gizhilois@yahoo.com)

**Pastor: Rev. Vernice Thorn**

[akatinyt@hotmail.com](mailto:akatinyt@hotmail.com)

**Student Pastor: Benjamin Bower**

[Benjamin.Bower@garrett.edu](mailto:Benjamin.Bower@garrett.edu)

**Affiliated Pastor: Rev. Kevin A. Johnson,**

**Bloom in the Desert**

[revkev@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:revkev@bloominthedesert.org)

**Praise & Worship Leader:**

**Jacqueline H. Boyd**

[jacquelineh.boyd1@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelineh.boyd1@gmail.com)

**Office Manager: Alexia Rivera**

[broadwayc@ameritech.net](mailto:broadwayc@ameritech.net)

**Youth Lounge Administrative Assistant:**

**Vincent Wiggins**

[wiggins\\_vincent@yahoo.com](mailto:wiggins_vincent@yahoo.com)

**Youth Lounge Ambassador: Cindy Grissom**

[chicago.cindy1@gmail.com](mailto:chicago.cindy1@gmail.com)

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

You can give online at [www.broadwaychurchchicago.org](http://www.broadwaychurchchicago.org)

or scan code at right for our donation page.

