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The Broadway

OCTOBER, 2013

Letter from Lois

To love at all is to be vulnerable.

Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken.

If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one... ~ C.S. Lewis

At the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) Convocation last month, I had the privilege of joining almost 1,000 people in the RMN movement's celebration of "Biblical Obedience" as we gathered with same-gender-loving couples and the clergy who are committed to be in ministry with them.

This Worship service was both celebration and statement: for what we clergy are doing, in some minds, "goes against church 'law'" – which is to say that officiating for such ceremonies is a direct violation of a United Methodist guideline as put forth in the denomination's *Book of Discipline*.

To be sure, people violate that *Book* all the time. Like many conversations in the public sphere, however, the conversation about marriage for lesbian & gay people becomes one of "rule-breaking" that turns into religious argument about what God has to say about human love.

Here's the thing: **God approves of human love.**

God approves of people's willingness to – as C.S. Lewis put it – be vulnerable, to "give their hearts" to one another. God shows us how to give in this way, because this is the generous kind of love and grace that God bestows on us.

This "giving of oneself" is what I talk about with couples when we plan a wedding ceremony that will mark their public declaration of love. "Giving of oneself" is what makes people sacrifice and do amazing things for one another, creating a life of mutual dependence. This "giving of oneself" is what holds people ac-

countable for promises they make in the presence of family and friends who celebrate their life as a couple.

And "giving of oneself" doesn't belong only to opposite-gender-loving people. That's obvious, isn't it? When God created people, God created us to love and be loved; to help one another; to share tears and to share joy.

Which is why we name who we are as God's people at Broadway – a people who, in our marriage equality statement, declare: "at Broadway, we believe that this current UMC law is unjust and inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God's abundant love, which is our true authority...we affirm that God's grace is open to all, and we witness to that grace through our commitment to justice and equality in our congregation, the State of Illinois, the United Methodist Church, and the world. We, the congregation and ordained clergy, will honor any couple who seeks to commit their lives to one another in marriage and will celebrate all unions in the church sanctuary."

And that's also why I'll be on the bus to Springfield this month: a moment in a movement, when the voices of people of faith will be heard.

Come to Broadway to catch the bus for equality with Vernice & me at 7:30am on Tuesday, October 22,



Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



I am asking you, Broadway Community, to help put our faith into action by adding our voices to the many who are speaking truth to power.

Vernice's View

The fall and particularly the month of October, my birth month, is my favorite time of the year. There is a dynamic of transformation going on in nature that also affects my soul – the weather is cooler, the leaves change color, the animals and people alike begin to gather and prepare for winter. I've been watching the squirrels around my condo scurry with some urgency, gathering for the coming months. If you check the stores you will find a change in fashions as big sweaters and boots and coats begin to appear - all preparation for change. Change, for me, is not only inevitable but is a source of inspiration and motivation.

A huge change is coming, we pray, to Illinois; a change that has been a long time coming – marriage equality. The vote goes back again to the state legislature to legalize same gender marriage and obtain full marriage rights for all committed couples in the state of Illinois. This is certainly a political issue and we in this faith community also believe it to be a justice issue thereby making it a faith issue.

I am asking you, Broadway Community, to help put our faith into action by adding our voices to the many who are speaking truth to power. We have several ways we can do that:

March on Springfield:

Buy your bus ticket today for this historic event! Visit www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org/buses.php. The Coalition of Welcoming Churches will arrange at least one bus to leave from a few key geographic locations. Broadway (yea us!) is a confirmed pickup location. If you want to purchase a ticket you can do so through the web or give a check (make out to Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches) or cash to me.

The event website is:

www.marchonspringfield.org.

If you are unable to join the march here are other ways to help out:

Phone Bank Volunteers, Canvassers, Church Messaging & Signage:

IL Unites for Marriage coalition has phone banks in the Loop all evenings, and in Lakeview Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more info, go to 'Events' at www.illinoisunites.org.

These are some needs:

- seeking phone bank volunteers including sponsor nights, when your church/group does phone bank
- seeking prepared foods for volunteers (drop a dish)
- seeking other 20-person phone bank locations in Rogers Park, Evanston, and Andersonville (electric is all that's needed).
- seeking canvassers to get passersby to sign post-cards to their reps.

Any way we can add our voice to this event will be most helpful. If you have questions please contact me or Emily Enthof.

As we begin this fall month of gathering and preparing, let us be mindful of community and the many needs that we have here, within our walls, and beyond our walls. Pray for peace and justice...

Rev. Vernice L. Thorn
Broadway UMC Pastor,
CWACM Clergy

Chicago Marathon Street Closures

Broadway Street will be closed between Addison and Diversey for the Chicago Marathon the morning of **Sunday, October 13th**. Anticipated opening of the street is around 10:45am. Street parking near BUMC will be difficult. **Great day to bike, walk, or take CTA!**



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)

Here I come! Ready or not!! I am so looking forward to being in the Broadway congregation on Sunday, October 20. We are thankful for the Broadway support that October's Mission Minute will give Bloom. I am personally excited to be able to bring some personal news to you. Bloom was born from Broadway. We cherish our important relationship with you. It is good that we get together again.

In other news...

The second weekend of September was a celebration in our community. Bloomers and friends joined with Mike and Rev. Kev to celebrate their 15th anniversary and Rev. Kev's 60th birthday. The main gathering was an "open house" at Mike and Rev. Kev's condo. Almost 50 Bloomers and friends gathered for a couple hours of friendship and fun. It was a great party, including great food and an improvised balloon drop.

It could be said that the party was the unofficial kick-off to "The Season," which means that we transition from summer slowdown to a quickening pace through next May. Worship and fundraising plans are beginning for events throughout the season. Bible Bites Bible study is resuming on Wednesday nights. BloomChoir is organizing. Sunday attendance is rising. All of these are signs of vitality. Throughout the summer, Sunday worship was well supported. At least a thousand sandwiches a week were made for the homeless and working poor. Dozens of backpacks were filled and provided to children in the neediest neighborhoods. Prayers were said and hugs remained free.

Over the summer, a new book reading group – inspired by the one Rev. Kev visited at Broadway – has been able to learn and share with the rest of the congregation some important insights about prayer. Reading *In God's*

Presence; Theological Reflections on Prayer was a first time exploration of Process Theology for most of the readers. It was a challenge that the group stuck with and met – although some who started did not finish with the group. Two key learnings to share are: 1) We do not know for sure what will happen in the future as a result of our prayers, but we know that we have changed the present and 2) In the act of praying for others, we connect in the moment with the subject of our prayers – locally and globally. That is experiential reality that cannot be denied and is beneficial in itself.

The reading group and other such experiences help Bloomers and friends keep faithful to our vision to be "intellectually challenging and emotionally supportive" in our church community.

As always, we ask you to keep us in your prayers. We will pray for you.

Fall Fun, Food (and property work) Day!

Saturday, October 19, 8:30am-2pm. Come join the Property Caregivers to give some loving care to our building and grounds for a few hours, and enjoy some tasty food and fellowship while you're at it. Lots of tasks, both indoor and outdoor, will be available for folks of all physical ability levels. Come and join us! For questions or to RSVP, contact Clayton Parr, Property Caregivers Secretary, at claytonparr@mac.com.

October Mission Minute

The Mission Minute for October is **Bloom in the Desert Ministries**.

Bloom in the Desert Ministries United Church of Christ and Reconciling Methodist congregation is an interdenominational, inclusive, progressive-Christian, traditional mainline, liberal protestant church.



Mission Statement: Guided by teaching of Jesus Christ, Bloom is a community of believers who strive to uplift and heal one another. We gather to worship God, witness our faith in the living of our lives and uphold one another in Christian living. United in our diversity we are inclusive and embracing. We agitate for God’s peace and justice in our community and around the world. **Core Values:** We are a people of God’s extravagant welcome. We are a people of Covenant. We work toward a just and loving world through service and generosity. We listen for the still-speaking God. We encourage a life of inquisitive and thoughtful searching. We are grounded by Christian faithfulness. We celebrate the joy in life. **Rev. Kevin A. Johnson**, pastor of Bloom in the Desert, and his partner, Mike Shear, are members of Broadway, who moved to Palm Springs, California, in 2002 to begin a new inclusive church. **Rev. Kev will visit Broadway and preach on October 20.** More information at www.bloominthedesert.org

Mission Minute Sunday is October 20, but you can donate throughout the month – make checks out to Broadway and designate your check or envelope to “Bloom” or “October Mission Minute”. You can also donate [online](#).

This Mission Minute is brought to you by the Sowers.

Navigating the Affordable Care Act

People of Faith Seeking Justice and Health. **Tuesday-Wednesday, October 1-2, 2013.**

This Conference, convened by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, will create a collegial Network of Care of congregational leaders, empowered to help people of the community navigate and access health security provided by the Affordable Care Act.

Plenary and Small Group Sessions providing Faith and Community Leaders with empowering information will be held at Garrett and Partner Sites across Chicagoland.

For more information and to register, visit www.garrett.edu/navigatingACA.

Greater Chicago Food Depository



Volunteers from Broadway will work at the Greater Chicago Food Depository on **Saturday, October 5th, from 1-4pm.**

If you are interested, please email Greg Harris at msu75us@yahoo.com.

Sunday Adult Education Hour

Please join us on **Sunday mornings at 10am** in the Pillow Room as we reflect on and discuss *The Book Of Awakening – “Having the Life You Want by Being Present to the Life You Have”* by Mark Nepo. Mark is a poet and philosopher who has taught in the fields of poetry and spirituality for over 30 years. A cancer survivor, Nepo writes and teaches about the journey of inner transformation and the life of relationship. Coming later this fall: *The Artist’s Way*.

Children’s Education Time

Children’s Education Time has returned to the regular format and curriculum. **Sundays at 11:15am**. If you are interested in leading Children’s Education Time please contact Rev. Thorn (akatinyt@hotmail.com) or Jenn Peterson (jpbarnidgrl@gmail.com)

Congregational Care Team

There is an opportunity to become a part of the Congregational Care Team. A planning and training meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 6, from 1-3pm**. If you are interested or have questions contact Rev. Thorn.

Children’s Ed & Safe Sanctuary Workshop

Saturday, October 5th from 10am-1pm.

Included in that time will be a review and for our new folks an introduction to the curriculum and information on what happens on Sunday morning during Children’s Education, as well as things to pay special attention to during your time with the children. This will be followed by training on our Safe Sanctuary Policy. Both of these items are extremely important for the Children’s Education program. Please put it on your calendar and plan to attend. If you need child care let Rev. Vernice know in advance and we will make that happen.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL)!

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

Join us as we learn about the lectionary and study scriptures that are read at Sunday services. The Revised Common Lectionary used in many Protestant churches is a preselected collection of scriptural readings from the Bible and follows the liturgical year in a three year cycle. Join us **each Wednesday evening at 7pm** in the Pillow Room.

WNL! Study Goes Live Online

Can't physically make it to WNL...join us via the internet and/or phone. Just follow the instructions on our website under Wednesday Night Live! We look forward to hearing you. Open on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 9:15pm.

A blog (with a link to the current week’s lectionary) can be found at: broadwaychurchchicago.blogspot.com/?m=1

Pet Blessing with Dignity Chicago



Saturday, October 5th at 1pm in the Parsonage yard.

Bring your dog, cat, hamster, fish, bird, ferret, mouse, turtle, snake, guinea pig, bunny, goat, rat, lizard, rock... or just yourself. We will gather to celebrate the animals in our lives, as well as remember loved animals who are no longer with us. Pastors will individually bless each animal present. Please make sure that your animal is healthy and vaccinated, and on-leash or in-carrier. We will spend the hour together celebrating the joy and love of animals! The service will be a wonderful opportunity to say 'thank you' to God for the gift of animals. All are welcome to attend!

Youth Lounge 101

First and third Saturdays of each month, from 1:30-3:30pm in Room A. Youth Lounge is adding additional resources for our youth and would love for you to volunteer. Youth Lounge 101 will work with our youth to achieve academic and career success based on the youth's interest. Please contact Vincent Wiggins for more information. Vincent@youthlounge.org or 773.450.6706.

March on Springfield



Marriage Equality comes back to session on October 22nd. We are gearing up for a win! We want full participation of the Broadway congregation. We can do "Acts of Faith" from phone banking to calling and writing our state representatives, to the big march on **Tuesday, October 22nd**. A bus will be leaving from the Broadway parking lot at 7:30am and returning by 9pm. People can purchase \$35 roundtrip tickets for the bus on line through Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches at www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org. Or you can purchase them from Rev. Thorn, Team Captain, or from Emily Enthof, Co-Lay Leader, via check (payable to Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches) or cash. For more info, please call or text Rev. Thorn at 773-383-5828.

Save the Date

Wednesday, November 6 at 7pm:

Book signing with Anne Lamott!



Membership / Covenant Exploration

Are you interested in joining Broadway's family? Would you just like to know more about the congregation? If either is the case, "Covenant Exploration" may be the experience for you. **Everyone is welcome as we hold two classes on Sundays, October 13 and 20, from 12:30 to 2pm. New covenants will be received in Worship on Sunday, October 27th, at the 11am service.** Covenant Exploration has been designed for people who are interested in entering into covenant with Broadway and the United Methodist denomination or only with Broadway. The class is a prerequisite for taking the vows of connection. So if you're thinking of "joining the family," think about this opportunity to learn more! Feel free to contact one of the pastors with any questions or concerns.

Steps for Equality

Here is a very current book: *The Bullying Antidote* by Dr. Louise Hart and Kristen Caven (Superpower Your Kids for Life; Action Plans for Today, Confidence through graduation) age range is 6-16. Copyright 2013. Hazelden - Center City, Minnesota, 55012. BF 723 .a35 h37. Price \$14.95.

Dr. Hart is a community psychologist dedicated to creating family & school environments in which children thrive & learn the skills necessary to become healthy, self directed loving adults. She has conducted seminars for thousands of parents & educators, nationwide. Kristen Caven, Louise's daughter, is a mother of a teenager.

Equality in Jesus — Helen, Emily, Dee

Lakeview Pantry



Lakeview Pantry needs our help in replenishing their winter supply of food and hygiene products. Most needed items are 100% shelf-stable fruit juice, canned soups, canned beef stew and chili, dried beans, deodorant, toothpaste, shaving gel, and shampoo. Of course all non-perishable food donations and staples such as tuna (self-opening can) and peanut butter are always welcome. You can place donations in the basket at the Altar on Sundays or outside the sanctuary on weekdays. Let's give our help to this organization who has been so generous to us!

Local & Fair Trade Vendors Market

Saturday, November 2 from 10am to 6pm.

If you are interested in helping with set-up, clean-up, or other hospitality the day of the Market, please be in touch with Paula Roderick or any of the Sowers.

Interested in reserving space at the Market?

Please contact Cindy, Vendor Coordinator, at 773-936-2600/BUMCevent2013@gmail.com.

Application deadline is October 18, 2013.

Historical Note

Any ideas for enhancing our Wednesday Night Live?

“Epworth League” (excerpt); *Church News*, March 1922

We feel that now as the more pleasant weather is approaching, something original should be arranged to keep up interest and attendance.

The Epworth League devotional meeting on Sunday at 6:45pm is the only one where you are free to speak, sing, or pray at your will. We should have at least 75 at every meeting for the inspiration one always gets carries you far into the week.

Some of the older members of our congregation may not think this is a welcome place for them. Rest assured of the fact that all are welcome!

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the November 2013 issue of The Broadway are due **Sunday, October 20**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to the office at bumclakeview@gmail.com.

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

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Youth Lounge Ambassador: Cindy Grissom

cindy@youthlounge.org

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.

