

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

Vernice's View ..... 2

May Mission  
Minute ..... 3

Broadway's Financial  
Future..... 4

Calendar Notes ..... 4

Disaster Relief ..... 4

Exchange  
Program ..... 4

Education ..... 5

Wednesday  
Night Live! ..... 5

Sharing Stories  
of Our Faith  
Journeys..... 5

ONE Northside's  
Response to Gov.  
Rauner's Budget..... 6

Broadway  
welcomes Pastor  
Alka Lyall ..... 7



# The Broadway

M A Y , 2 0 1 5

## Letter from Lois

*For I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?  
~ Isaiah 43:19*

In just over a month, my family and I will move our belongings out of the beautiful parsonage that is temporary home for the UMC-appointed Co-Pastor of Broadway. I'm so grateful for the ways in which this home has been a place of ministry as well as a place for me to rest and restore, study and write. As we make our lists of ways that the parsonage gets ready for Rev. Alka Lyall and her family, I'm treasuring each morning I wake to the rainbows on my wall that shine in through the stained-glass in our bedroom windows. And I'm aware that I'm counting down the days.

In some ways it's still unbelievable to me that I'll leave Broadway, for all that this community has given me and taught me has deepened and strengthened my ministry. But even as we spend these days saying farewell and easing into the transition for my departure and Alka's arrival, I can see that my future in Michigan doing justice work will be full.

I'm remembering back to the start of my time here, when I invited Broadway's staff to the parsonage for a brunch in order to get acquainted. I'm aware that dear Julie was at that brunch, and now we hold Julie in memory as the children whose lives she touched are now having children of their own. Julie watched Breeze grow up and now Breeze and her mother Gloria are watching the next set of babies become toddlers and join the Kaleidoscope Choir. Oscar (with Marta and Sonia) come in the early hours to keep our building clean. Mike and Tim, while called "Security Monitors" serve as a hospitality team as they hosts groups and keep the building welcoming and safe as outside groups share space with us.

Alexia manages those space-sharing folks and a myriad of other duties that includes keeping our financial records in order, managing the database, and handling communications and publications. Jackie and Mark offer their tremendous gifts to our Sunday morning, bringing an eclectic mix of music to our praise and worship. We've enjoyed the ministry of many students here, most recently Jake – they, too, have taught me even as they came to us as learners.

Vernice and I have moved into a new and more intentional relationship as Co-Pastors since that time, and I'm so thankful for the ways that we've tried to model what it is to be in dialogue and discernment together. We've come a long way from that brunch day – learning to hear one another, learning to pay attention to the ways that racism creates barriers we wish to disrupt, learning to be partners in ministry. Our time together has stretched and grown my own identity and I believe has strengthened the ministry of Broadway.

Broadway's whole staff gives itself to the identity, mission, and ministry of our faith community and makes it tick in ways seen and unseen, and I so appreciate the way they have welcomed and received me. While some of the members of the staff are also members of Broadway UMC, some are not – but they are all part of this family at the corner of Broadway & Buckingham that commits itself to God's wide welcome and a life of justice.

Thanks Vernice, Julie (now of blessed memory), Breeze, Gloria, Oscar, Marta, Sonia, Mike, Tim, Alexia, Jackie, Mark, and Jake. Thank you so much.



In faith,

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



## Vernice's View

Well...it's May and we are finally seeing and feeling some good weather. It's been a long winter and now the days are longer and the sun shines more, the birds are louder, grass is greener...yea!

As we come into this time, just as the weather is changing so is Broadway. We have a few transitions in the next couple of months. These changes are both times of celebration and times of loss. I'm trying to balance both. I'm sure many of you reading this newsletter are attempting to do the same.

My first celebration and loss are my friends and former colleagues, Greg and Jade Dell. They are leaving Chicago to move to Raleigh, NC. They are moving to be close to their son and his family. Certainly a celebration and a great loss for me and for Chicago. Greg and Jade I wish you well. Thank you for the power of your justice ministry and all the many lives you've touched here in Chicago. I know you will continue to effect change wherever you are. We love you!

My next celebration and loss is Jake and Janelle Ohlemiller. As Jake's site supervisor I've had the opportunity to work closely with Jake during his time at Broadway. I'm thankful for his ministry and the many gifts he's shared with Broadway, even as we've shared our gifts with him. Jake and Janelle, thank you for all you've given to us. Our prayers and love go with you as you begin your new ministry in Indiana. We will hold you both in our hearts!

My last celebration and loss is Lois. I'm not sure how to begin to process how deep this loss will be for me and for Broadway. We've

learned a lot together about leadership, diversity and about how to be in relationship, honoring difference and celebrating the things we have in common. We've changed the face of Broadway's worship, being especially vigilant about breaking down walls of hierarchy. We've modeled the difficulty and the joy of community. We've marched side by side for justice. We've cried and laughed together. We've faced difficult situations together and challenged each other to bring our best selves, always. And now we celebrate new beginnings, together. Lois, thank you. I celebrate you, I celebrate us. As our paths diverge I hold close our learnings and the ministry memories we've shared as co-pastors. There will be more time for goodbyes in the next month but I needed to publicly begin the process. My heart and prayers go with you. I wish you well in your next phase of life. I know we will remain in ministry together, just differently. Thanks for all you've been and continue to be in my life and in the justice movement.

Broadway, as we stay on the journey, let us move forward with openness and thanksgiving. Our justice journey continues as we mourn our losses and celebrate possibility.

Yes! Our journey continues...

Living Brave Space,

Rev. Vernice L. Thorn

CWACM Clergy,

Broadway UMC Co-Pastor

*Broadway,  
as we stay  
on the journey,  
let us move  
forward with  
openness and  
thanksgiving.  
Our justice  
journey  
continues  
as we mourn  
our losses  
and celebrate  
possibility.*

# May Mission Minute: Kenyan orphanage

In 2002, Dr. Bemm, a pediatrician, and Amy, his wife, planned to go on a mission to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya with their 3 young children. Much has happened in 12 years as they continue to be remembered each year by Broadway United Methodist Church through our Mission Minutes. The family has grown and includes through adoptions some of the Kenya children under his care who were abandoned by their natural parents.

Dr. Bemm continues medical practice at Tenwek Hospital, teaching other doctors and with Amy has expanded his interest and care for the children in the community by establishing two orphanages. He worked to get David and Sarah Koech, Directors of Kenduiwa Children's

Home, a school for these children. The thought was a K-8 School for them but as time went on they saw the suffering of local children in the surrounding area and prayed that they could assist these little ones in the neighborhood too. Through a Work Team coming from Massachusetts they were able to take down an old school building and use the wood to make a new school in two buildings. At this school the children can come "as is," uniforms and shoes are not required at this school. Most of the neighborhood children wander around seeking food while their mothers are away picking tea or fetching fire wood — a two hour walk from their homes.



The school tries to provide morning chai and a nutritious meal each day. The parents are asked to bring produce but it is emphasized that they do not have to if they are unable because they want the children to attend and be fed at least one good meal a day. Dr. Bemm meets with the teachers each

week and discusses how the children are doing. Another teacher is finishing her social work degree and will become head teacher for the school. She will also use her skills to assist with other community needs.

Broadway's offering will be directed to this school to provide for the needs of these Kenyan children.

Mission Minute Sunday is **May 10**, but you can donate throughout the month – make checks out to Broadway UMC and designate your check or envelope to "Kenya" or "May Mission Minute." You can also donate [online](#).

*This Mission Minute is brought to you by Mel Bose and the Sowers.*

# Broadway's Financial Future



An Invitation from the Money Ministry & Stewardship Teams

It's spring — time for bringing new things to light! Here at Broadway, we're committed to bringing a budget to light with our plans for Broadway's financial future. Please join us **after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, May 17**, for an open discussion of our budget. We'll discuss both our ongoing operating commitments and some extraordinary one-time expenses. **To facilitate this discussion, members of the Money Ministries team will be available after the 11:00am service on May 3rd and 10th to talk with people, either in groups or one-on-one.** Contact Loraine at [ledwalds@hotmail.com](mailto:ledwalds@hotmail.com) if you are interested but unable to attend.

*Money Ministry & Stewardship Teams: Victor Poncé, Loraine Edwalds, Channing Lenert, Vincent Wiggins, Heather Bowles, Maurice Gillespie, Ruth Clark, Keri Rainsberger.*

## Calendar

## Notes

**Saturday, May 16 at 11am:** A Memorial Service for Lori Eddy

**Sunday, May 17 at 12:15pm:** Congregational Meeting (see page. 4)

**Sunday, May 31:** Student Pastor Jake Ohlemiller's last Sunday and farewell

**Sunday, June 21:** Rev. Lois McCullen Parr's last Sunday and farewell

**Sunday, July 5:** Rev. Alka Lyall's first Sunday and welcome

## Disaster Relief

At least **two tornadoes** tore through parts of Northern Illinois on April 9, killing two people and destroying homes and businesses in its path. Donations can be made at [www.umcnic.org/tornado-disaster-response](http://www.umcnic.org/tornado-disaster-response).

A 7.8 magnitude **earthquake that struck Nepal** on April 25, the most powerful quake in 81 years to hit the region. Donations to support the response to the earthquake in Nepal and other international disasters can be made online ([www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org)) through UMCOR Advance # 982450.

## Exchange Program

Would your family consider hosting an international exchange student arriving in August? Hosting a student during the academic year is a fun way to spark your family's interest in the world. Choose a boy or girl from the country of your choice. A highly respected, nonprofit leader in youth exchange, YFU USA ([yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org)) will guide you and your student through this meaningful experience. Founder Rachel Andresen established YFU after WWII and was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts. Act now as spots for exchange students are filling fast at many schools. Volunteer opportunities are also available with YFU. Join in the fun and make a difference! For more information, please contact Zach Knoch at 630-297-5948 or email [zknoch@yfu.org](mailto:zknoch@yfu.org).

# Sunday Adult Education Hour

Please join us on **Sunday mornings at 10:15am** in the Pillow Room as we reflect on and discuss our next book *The President's Devotional* by Joshua DeBois. Every day, DuBois provided President Obama with a morning devotional weaving together scripture, song, prayer, and reflections, motivated by the spirit of God and infused with joyful flair. *The President's Devotional* contains the best of these devotionals, daily spiritual guidance that offer peace, comfort, and inspiration throughout the entire year.

## Children's Education Time



**Sundays at 11:15am.**

Our Youth Ministry is so important to our congregation. We have some great leaders and we need more! If you have interest in shaping and supporting our Young Christians you are invited to join the team. Contact Rev. Vernice for more information. Our children are our future!

## 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.

**Education Hour** Our *Children on the Margins* discussion will wrap up on **Wednesday, May 6**. Then WNL! switches to ordinary time, returning to scripture and lectionary study for the summer, **beginning May 13th**. Check Sunday bulletins for lectionary scriptures. Bring your questions and let's grow together. Hope you can join us, **Wednesdays at 7pm**.

# Sharing Stories of Our Faith Journeys

As part of efforts to strengthen Sunday morning Children's Education for our older kids, we'd like to ask members of the Broadway community to serve as special guests during Children's Church (during the 11:00am Sunday service) to share their stories of how faith has been part of their lives. The idea is to showcase for the kids the rich variety of faith journeys represented by members of our community, and prepare the kids to understand that there isn't a single "right" way to be in relationship with God and church. To volunteer or find out more, please contact Ted Pfeiffer at [tedpfeiffer@aol.com](mailto:tedpfeiffer@aol.com). Please put "Faith Journeys" in the subject line of your message.



Join ONE Northside for a powerful series of actions to counter Governor Rauner's draconian budget cuts! Governor Rauner proposed over \$6 billion in cuts for FY16's budget. This is after ongoing cuts to programs that support working families and those in need in this current year. ONE Northside and our partners in Fair Economy Illinois have a revenue platform that will put people and the planet first. We've long said, this is a revenue crisis not a spending crisis, and the state must raise adequate revenue from Big Corporations, LaSalle Street and the 1% in order to fulfill its duties for the people of Illinois. You can help us advance this message by taking action with us.

**Rally & March to Fight Cuts | Saturday, May 9**

Where: Wellington Ave UCC (615 W. Wellington) | When: 12:45pm-4:30pm

What: A rally organized by the Jane Addams Senior Caucus. Deliver a strong message to Governor Rauner that we must raise revenue from Big Corporations and the 1%.

**Raunerville | Wednesday, May 13**

Where: Millennium Park | When: Meet at ONE Northside's office at 3pm or at The Bean in Millennium Park at 3:45pm; the action will conclude at 5:30pm

What: The governor owns 9 homes plus the governor's mansion! We will march and construct a Rauner-ville shanty town outside one of the his 10 residences to illustrate the impact his cuts will have on our communities.

**McDonald's Shareholder Action | Wednesday, May 20**

Where: Catch a bus at ONE Northside and travel with us to Oakbrook. | When: ~10am-3pm

What: Corporations are shortchanging our communities — they don't pay their fair share of taxes and they don't pay their workers a living wage. The workers are close to winning a \$15/hour wage at McDonald's. We must help them put pressure on the shareholders to negotiate with the workers and to show broad-based community support for the Fight for \$15. Lunch will be provided. RSVP: contact [eglover@onenorthside.org](mailto:eglover@onenorthside.org) / 773-769-3232 x12

**Moral Mondays | Mondays in May and June**

Where: Locations will vary | When: Mondays in May and June (currently 5/18 in Chicago from 11am-12:30pm), 5/25 (lobby day in Springfield - all day), 6/1 (in Chicago, time TBD)

What: A series of actions that bring together faith and community leaders to condemn the wealthy individuals and big corporations who stand to profit from Illinois' draconian budget cuts. RSVP: Contact Hannah Gelder at 773-769-3232 x19 / [hgedler@onenorthside.org](mailto:hgedler@onenorthside.org)

# Broadway welcomes Pastor Alka Lyall, effective July 1, 2015.



*Celebrating  
Arrests:*

*From left,  
Methodist faith  
leaders Rev.  
Deborah Tinsley  
Taylor, Aurora;  
Bishop Minerva  
Carcaño,  
California; and  
**Rev. Alka  
Lyall, Aurora,**  
show arrest  
wrist bands  
after being  
released by  
Washington,  
D.C., police  
July 31, 2014.*

Rev. Alka Lyall is a life-long Methodist, who is at the table fighting for the inclusion of those who continue to be voiceless and excluded. She grew up in the Methodist Church in India and came to the United States in 1996 as a seminary student. She is an ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Conference and has been serving the people of God, with the people of Northern Illinois Conference, since graduating from Seminary in 2000. She has two sons and a husband without whose support she could not have done anything. Alka has always been an active and involved member of the church. She was a delegate to World Methodist Council as a youth representative from India in 1986 and later served on its Presidium. She has been a delegate to 2012 and alternate to the 2008 General Conference. Alka has chaired and served on various boards, agencies and committees in her conference. She currently chairs the Annual Conference committee of the

Northern Illinois Conference and serves on the Board of Directors of Northern Illinois Conference Justice for our Neighbors. She is also active in the Northern Illinois Conference RMN task force. In addition, Alka serves on the RMN Board of Directors and is an elected delegate to the UMC Global General Conference in 2016. Alka desires to share the love of God, which welcomes all people, with all the people of God but especially with those who have been rejected, refused and forgotten by the church. Her prayer is that someday the church will open its doors to all people and to that she continues her ministry.

The relationship builders team will continue to work to make this transition a smooth, healthy, and blessing to the Broadway community.

Christopher Lewis,  
Chairperson, Relationship Builders



## Broadway United Methodist Church

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

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)

**Student Pastor: Jake Ohlemiller**

[jake.ohlemiller@garrett.edu](mailto:jake.ohlemiller@garrett.edu)

**Praise & Worship Leader:**

**Jacqueline H. Boyd**

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

**Pastor: Rev. Vernice Thorn**

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

**Office Manager: Alexia Rivera**

[bumclakeview@gmail.com](mailto:bumclakeview@gmail.com)

**Youth Lounge Administrator:**

**Vincent Wiggins**

[vincent@youthlounge.org](mailto:vincent@youthlounge.org)

## Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the June, 2014 issue of The Broadway are due **Sunday, May 17 (third Sunday of the month)**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to the office at [bumclakeview@gmail.com](mailto:bumclakeview@gmail.com). Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.



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

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

or scan code at right for our donation page.

