



**Broadway**  
United Methodist Church



# The Broadway — March 2011

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## The Pastor's Paragraphs

*Teach us to care  
and not to care.  
Teach us to sit still.*  
~ T.S. Eliot, "Ash Wednesday"

*But Jesus would often go to some place where he could be alone and pray.*  
~ Luke 5:16

*As a deer gets thirsty for streams of water, I truly am thirsty for you, my God.  
In my heart, I am thirsty for you, the living God.*  
~ Psalm 42

I can get myself pretty worked up about things. Like how much laundry I need to do. Like how many important letters or papers to attend to may be under other papers or books in my office. Like how much I want to try to get done this hour, today, this week.

Like how wrong it is that some people have decided that the collective bargaining power of public workers is unimportant. Like how the impact of Federal budget cuts hurts the poorest and most vulnerable.

Like how racism isn't funny; it's ugly. Like how a young beautiful person has been kicked out of her home by parents who think she's a sinner. Like how a child in Sudan has been taught to use a gun.

And I can make myself a mess by getting worked up. Lose sleep, skip meals, overwork. So I'm trying to heed my own advice, the advice I give others...

slow down  
breathe  
take time  
pray

Lent is the perfect time for this – to slow down, to reflect, to "sit still," as Eliot writes. For, by tradition, it is the time set apart as a season of preparation for the greatest holy days of the Christian story: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday. Historically it was a season of preparation for those to be baptized on Easter morning, after a two-year period of learning about the faith and its community.

[continued on page 2...]

## Vernice's View

As you receive this newsletter Ash Wednesday will be upon us. Ash Wednesday, March 9th, begins a 40 day journey of reflection and meditation, of questioning and discovering, that will lead us to Resurrection Day! We have many activities and educational opportunities to help us on that quest. I hope that each of us will take the opportunity to experience Lent in a personal and specific way by choosing to participate in one or more of the Lenten experiences.

Each week on Wednesday, during Lent, following guided meditation, we offer study and discussion about forgiveness. Using the book *The Bridge to Forgiveness: Stories and prayers for finding God and restoring wholeness*, we will define forgiveness and connect it to our own faith journey. My good friend, Rev. Jacki Belile from Living Well Ministries (see page 6 for more information) will introduce this study. On Sunday mornings at 10 am Tracy Nolan will lead us in a Queer Identity dialogue (see page 7). These are just two meaningful events happening in March; events that will help us travel deeper as we seek a clearer understanding of our connection with God and community. Please check out the other educational and spiritual occasions throughout Lent and Holy Week.

As we begin March, I want to take a moment and just say a special thank you to those who have been involved in the ongoing Multicultural Seminar Series which began last November and continued each Saturday in February. To the facilitators, to the participants and to the Anti-Racist White Caucus and the People of Color Discussion Groups, who co-hosted these workshops, I say thank you for staying at the table and enriching the conversation. Our perspectives and interactions were both educational and inspirational as we shared our stories, our challenges, our hopes and our dreams. Our expectation is to continue offering these types of occasions as we live into our vision of radical inclusion.

God calls us to stay the course. The journey and fun continues...



In Truth and Justice,  
Vernice

## The Pastor's Paragraphs (continued from pg. 1)

So, if I can take Eliot's advice, I have to discern, too, about what requires "to care" and "not to care" – the laundry is a daily task that seems trivial, but when I am overwhelmed by the needs of the world and the pain of injustice...well, frankly, I try to use a prayer approach to the laundry pile. I am reminded that Jesus went off, alone, to pray – to gain strength for the journey of turning the world upside down. I try to find a Biblical word or phrase that can sustain me and pray my way through laundry to discover a new energy to continue to walk the Jesus path.

With our Lenten theme this year, "Water for Our Souls," I'm going to use this line from Psalm 42 for my Lenten mantra: *As a deer gets thirsty for streams of water, I truly am thirsty for you, my God. In my heart, I am thirsty for you, the living God.* From the laundry or the paperwork, to the deeper ministry that calls us to live fully and to help others live fully, I'll be reciting that phrase this season. Because I am thirsty for God's life-giving water for my soul; I know I need it.



On the journey with you,  
*Lois* +  
Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

## Kevin's Korner

March 2011

**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))



Dear Broadway friends;

The month of March is filled with great moments for Bloom. Foremost, it marks the eighth anniversary of our Sunday morning services. It gladdens my heart to note that occasionally we still sing from *The Faith We Sing* songbooks that you sent to us to have for our first service outside in the Palapas Art Gardens on March 9, 2003.

We are looking forward to our first Shrove (A.K.A. "Fat") Tuesday potluck supper celebration as a way to expand our Lenten traditions. Besides our regularly scheduled Ash Wednesday service the next night, we will have a new Lenten Wednesday night book study reading a new book by Harvard professor, James Kugel, [In the Valley of the Shadow](#). The author says he was set to thinking about his experience and religious issues when he was diagnosed with cancer. However, "My book isn't about turning to God in your hour of need. It's more about the essence of religious faith and what it's based on." These events will round out our church's established approach to the observance of Lent as a time for healing and growth.

The biggest deal in March for Bloom is our "Spring Fling 2 Cabaret and Silent Auction." This second annual event features 10 of the Coachella Valleys' well-known cabaret singers and musicians volunteering their talents because they think Bloom does effective ministry and is a good church. We are so grateful to them and the Bloomers who are the Cabaret Committee. This event does not fund our budget. It helps us raise money to have "a place of our own" some day (whatever that means as the Spirit leads us). You can read many more details about this March 4 event on [Bloom's Web site](#). Come be with us!!

On March 26, we are blessed to be one of the beneficiaries in the DeVona McLaughlin Cox Retrospective Art Sale and Open House. Rev. DeVona Cox was a retired religious Science minister and recognized artist living with her retired Religious Science minister husband Duane in Palm Springs. As a couple they served as co-presidents of the West Valley Interfaith Association for two years. I was their vice president. DeVona and Duane were/are friends of Bloom and Duane fills in as our preacher occasionally. In fact Bloom was the first place Duane preached after DeVona's death. He expressed that he thought it was good to experience Bloom this way during his grief recovery time. The benefit from the sale of DeVona's extensive body of work will take place in their mid-century modern home, which is in an architecturally noteworthy gold course neighborhood (that means something out here). 100-percent of the sales will contribute to three groups: the USO, another local religious science church in Palm Springs and Bloom.

This is a brief look into the busy life of Bloom this month. Please go to [Bloom's Web site](#) and sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter, "BloomNotes." It will help us keep in touch. And always keep all of us in your prayers.

God bless you,

Rev. Kev

# RICH RITUALS / LENTEN PLANNING

Liturgy is the work of the people. As such, our worship should spring from the gifts and passions in our community of faith. What is your gift? Your passion?

- \* 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??

We've made a good start planning for worship during Lent but there is still room for your voice – for your gifts! If you are interested in worship planning and design please contact Carol McPherson at [carol.mcperson@garrett.edu](mailto:carol.mcperson@garrett.edu).

## ECUMENICAL ASH WEDNESDAY

### Seeking a new path: a time of renewal for the lgbt community

#### Faith communities partner in a bold and ecumenical approach to Lent

[Dignity/Chicago](#) and [Wisdom & Word Works](#), two organizations grounded in the Catholic tradition, will partner to present a program for Lent focused on a fresh approach to preparing for Easter.

The series begins with an **Ash Wednesday Service on March 9, 7:00 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary at 3338 N. Broadway in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood, home to [Broadway United Methodist Church](#) (BUMC) and Dignity/Chicago. BUMC will be an ecumenical partner for the Ash Wednesday service, with pastors Revs. Lois McCullen Parr and Vernice Thorn co-presiding with Roman Catholic Womanpriest Rev. Barbara Zeman of Wisdom & Word Works and member of Dignity/Chicago's ministry team.

"We are really pleased to extend the radically inclusive model of Jesus by partnering with Dignity and Wisdom & Word Works," says Rev. Parr. "Our Broadway identity and ministry includes our dual commitments to be an anti-racist congregation as well as offering reconciling hospitality with GLBTQ folks. Leadership of people of color in our congregational life is a critical means for us to speak to the intersections of oppression," affirms Parr, who hopes that people who are searching for meaning will join the Lenten journey opportunities offered by these faith communities.

[For the full press release, please see "[Dignity Press Release](#)" on our website under "Resources" then "Misc."]



LOOKING AHEAD...  
Lent / Holy Week / Easter  
schedule for 2011

Ash Wednesday — March 9  
Palm Sunday — April 17  
Maundy Thursday — April 21  
Good Friday — April 22  
Easter — April 24

# PERFORMING ARTS SERIES 2011

All performances are on **Friday evenings at 7:30 pm**, family friendly and followed by artist receptions!

**Next Up: March 4th — Qiana McNary, Mezzo-Soprano, a national semi-finalist in the Emerging Young Artist competition, sponsored by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Qiana will present an evening of aria and art song featuring a song cycle by blind African American composer Valerie Capers, accompanied by Saori Chiba.**

There will be a \$10 suggested donation at the door for each concert. Proceeds will support Broadway's community outreach ministry and music program. Please contact Sam Duplessis, Music Director, at [Duplessis.Sam@gmail.com](mailto:Duplessis.Sam@gmail.com) with any questions. (For a full schedule of the Series, please see "[Arts Series](#)" on our website under "Join Us.")

## SPIRITUALLY POSITIVE

A Confidential HIV/AIDS Support Group. Living with HIV/AIDS can be a tough life to lead, especially if you are doing it alone. So at Broadway United Methodist Church we would like to help by providing spiritually based support. Our vision is to offer a safe and confidential place for those in our faith community to share struggles, seek support and prayer. Also to de-stigmatize HIV/AIDS and to reach out to others in the community at large to offer God's peace, hope, joy and love in this struggle!

The first two meetings are set for **Tuesdays, March 8 and 22, from 6 to 7 pm**. For more information or to participate in the planning you can contact Victor Poncé at: [spirituallypositive@gmail.com](mailto:spirituallypositive@gmail.com).

## EMPOWERING ALL IN MINISTRY



We had a successful Church/Charge Conference on January 30! We will hold a **Congregational Gathering on Sunday, March 13 after the 11:00 service** to affirm and celebrate those who've felt called to ministry in our new model. More information, including an overview of what was presented at the January 30th meeting, is on our website under "[Empowering All in Ministry](#)" under "About Us."

**Where is God calling you to serve?**

## CONGRATULATIONS!

"Congratulations" to our Broadway Lay Speakers, **Irene Bourgeois, Diana Davis, Sean-Edward Hall, and Steve Wiegner** – these four have completed the NIC UMC Lay Academy; Irene extends her certification that began in her home congregation in NY; Diane, Sean-Edward and Steve are newly Certified!

# WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

## Eleven Weeks with Matthew

Come for a relaxed, informal Bible study – 2011 is the liturgical year of the Gospel according to Matthew, in which Jesus is understood to be the fulfillment of God's activity in human history. God's creation and salvation are completed in Jesus, and our lives are completed in Jesus, says Biblical historian Eugene Peterson. Questions & doubts are welcomed! Supplies needed: a Bible (if you need one, please ask!)

**March 7:** completing Chapters 1-20

**Lenten Study: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11**

Chapters 21-28: the Passion according to Matthew

### **Mondays**

**10-11:30am**

Wesley Room @ Broadway

**7-8:30pm**

@ the home of Bob Gorman  
3410 Lakeshore Drive 8F, Chicago

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

**Sanctuary Prayer** is open to the church and community **each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm**. Come, enjoy the quiet, and listen to meditative music and the healing sound of water. A pastor is available for prayer and consultation.

**Guided Meditation** in the Pillow Room at **6:00 pm. on Wednesdays**. If you're interested, come in comfortable clothes for this brief meditation. If you have questions, please see Vernice or Lois.

**Education Hour** — Join us for a study of the book *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* by Joan Chittister, **each Wednesday through March 2nd from 7 to 8:30 pm** in the Pillow Room.

Coming Soon: Lenten Study on **Wednesdays (March 16th – April 13th) at 7pm**. *The Bridge to Forgiveness: stories and prayers for finding God and restoring wholeness*, by Karyn Kedar. Wholeness is a lifelong pursuit that we all desire. We seek ways of understanding all that that journey entails. Forgiveness is a part of the journey, not just in the traditional sense where we are asked to forgive someone who betrays or hurts us, but a forgiveness that includes freeing ourselves to live a life of hope and possibility. We invite you to that kind of life. The introduction and outline for the study will be presented by Rev. Jackie Belile from Living Well Ministries. ([www.livingwellministries.com](http://www.livingwellministries.com)) To reserve a book, call the church office, talk to one of the pastors or order online.

# 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 a one-day class on **Sunday, March 20th from 12:30 to 4 pm** (lunch will be provided). 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!

# SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

## Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

Adult Education I: ***Spiritual Practices***. Ever wanted to deepen your spiritual life? Searched for a way to be closer to God? We will be studying “Spiritual Practices: Prayer, journaling, silence, and more” at 9:50 am in Area C each Sunday. All are welcome! This class is being led by Christopher W. Graul.

Adult Education II: ***Queer Identity and the Church***. You are invited to a month-long conversation about queer identity: How exactly do we define queer and what does that identity have to do with faith? All are welcome – whether you identify as queer, do not identify as queer, find the term problematic, or fully embrace the word. We will share our experiences and learn from each other. We’ll start out with the history of the term and basic definitions and end the series with a discussion of queer theology. In between, our conversation will be shaped by the questions that you bring and topics you want to address, so please join us! We will meet **each Sunday in March at 10 am** in the Pillow Room downstairs. Questions about the series? Contact Tracy Nolan at [tnolan@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:tnolan@go.mccormick.edu).

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to Jon Zillox, our Prayer Wall has taken on a new, fresh look. Stop by the wall, leave a prayer and/or take a prayer with you. As we pray together we recognize just how much we need each other. Prayer is that thread which keeps us connected as community.

About Prayer: We all pray. In all the emergencies of life, prayer is never far from our lips. Prayer is about spending time with God. The things that matter most – love, peace, freedom, dignity – can’t be bought at Jewel. They spring from our relationship with God. When we spend time with God, things change, we change in our understanding of ourselves and the rest of creation. Being able to turn to God is a gift and will give peace of mind in good times and trying times. Prayer is not a method, but a way of life. This Lenten season, let’s care for ourselves and one another by praying together.



### Prayer Opportunities:

**Prayer Wall** – write a prayer, take a prayer

**Sanctuary Prayer and Guided Meditation** (see [Wednesday Night Live!](#) on page 6)

**Prayer Partners** — many of you are already in prayer; if you need information to join this project, please contact Sean-Edward Hall at [seanedward2@yahoo.com](mailto:seanedward2@yahoo.com).

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY

Have you ever wondered what is mental health? What does the Bible say about it? What does our theology tell us about mental illness? What are some experiences of mental illness? A month-long study beginning **Wednesday, March 23 at 7pm** and running through April 13th will address these and other questions about mental health and spirituality. Come learn more about what mental health means in the context of our faith. All are welcome! For more information, contact Abigail Ozanne at [abigail.ozanne@garrett.edu](mailto:abigail.ozanne@garrett.edu).

# MARCH MISSION MINUTE



Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971. Today, MSF provides aid in nearly 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters. MSF provides

independent, impartial assistance to those most in need. MSF reserves the right to speak out to bring attention to neglected crises, to challenge inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments and protocols.

March's Mission Minute Sunday is **March 13**. However, you can make donations to Doctors Without Borders throughout the month. To donate, mark your envelope or check with the Mission Minute. (Make checks out to Broadway Church but be sure to note Doctors Without Borders or March Mission Minute.)

## GAY MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

The Gay Men's Discussion Group will continue: **March 1, 22, 29**, and April 5, 12, 26 at 7:00 pm in the Pillow Room. Questions? Contact Peter Godard at [pgodard@gmail.com](mailto:pgodard@gmail.com).

## SUMMER SPIRIT LAKE TRIP

**Spirit Lake Nation, Devils Lake, North Dakota  
June 12-18, 2011**

Once again, a team from Broadway will be heading to the Spirit Lake Dakotah Nation for a week of service, learning and relationship building with the members of the tribe and others there. If you can't travel with us, you can still be involved in preparing supplies for the team to take along. Part of our work there is with children in the Sidewalk Sunday School; we also will work on building maintenance or renovation projects of some type on the reservation.

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact me by phone at (224) 436-0415 or by email at [claytonparr@mac.com](mailto:claytonparr@mac.com). You can also find out about the trip by asking the members of last year's team: Susan Armstrong, Amy Daigler, Diana Davis, Craig Fitzgerald, Helen Nagel, MJ Grimshaw, Lois Parr, Cullen Parr.

Yours in Christ, Clayton Parr



Tribal website: <http://www.spiritlakenation.com/>

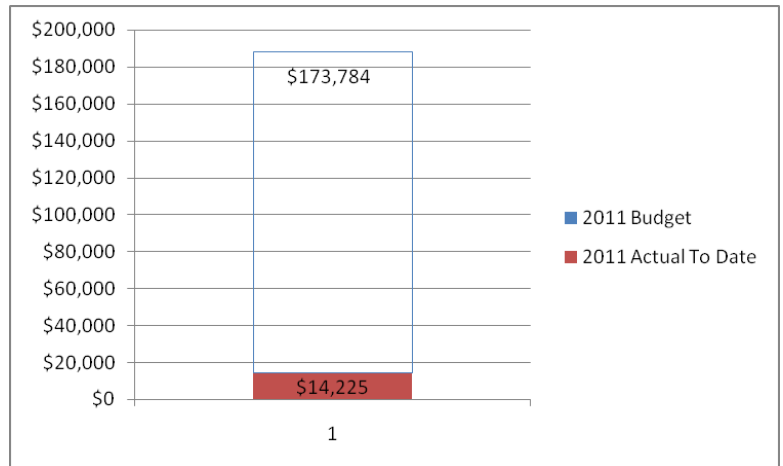
Spirit Lake Ministry Center website: <http://www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org/>

# FINANCE UPDATE

Happy 2011! It is still a new year, a new day, and a new time to feel called to offering your pledges. In January, you gave \$14,225 towards our 2011 \$173,784 pledge goal. These pledges helped us accomplish the following in January:

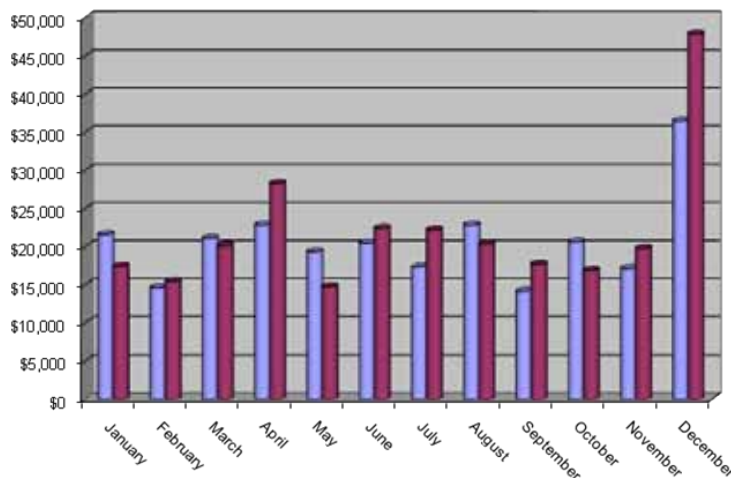
<b>Total Amount Received</b>	<b>\$19,906</b>
<b>Total Mission Contribution</b>	<b>\$979</b>
<b><u>Total Amount Spent</u></b>	<b><u>\$19,801</u></b>

*Keeping up with your pledged giving is essential for Broadway to fulfill its mission. Feel free to request a pledge check-up from any member of the Finance Team. Let's keep feeling called to offering!*



2010 was a tough financial year for this congregation. The year results are as follows.

2010 Year-to-Date Amount Spent Vs. Amount Received



Year-to-Date Totals:  
 Received: \$248,682  
 Spent: \$257,327

Broadway also contributed over \$4,800 towards Mission Minutes in 2010. Additionally, we paid 25% of our apportionments, which, although it may seem like a small amount, still contributed to helping the Northern Illinois Conference pay 100% of its General Church apportionments in 2010 for the first time in three years!

Thanks to all for your generosity in offering and mission. It really does take a village. Let's make 2011 our offering and mission year!

# NEWS OF MOVEMENTS FOR CHANGE

As we helped financially support Church Within a Church (CWAC) last month for our Mission Minute, we were reminded of Broadway's commitments to witnessing what we believe the Church can be...

That witness comes in part through our partnerships with multiple ministries that support the full inclusion of all God's children in the life and ministry of the Church.

We are a member organization of CWAC, the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), and the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CWC).

Last month we welcomed parents of the Reconciling movement (Parents Reconciling Network – PRN) to Worship, as we hosted their three-day meeting.



There are many ways we continue to “be the change we wish to see in the world” (Gandhi); our opportunities for individual and Broadway efforts include:

- \* supporting CWAC with our February Mission Minute
- 
- \* learning about the legislation that Broadway is co-sponsoring with other Reconciling Churches in the Northern Illinois Conference
    - \* the legislation goes to our Annual Conference this summer, in hopes of heading to General Conference in 2012, the event that occurs every four years in our global denomination that sets polity and practice for the UMC
    - \* legislation addresses the homophobic language of the UMC's current *Book of Discipline*, supports marriage between two individuals (rather than a man and woman), supports ordination of GLBTQ persons, among other related issues
    - \* find copies of the legislation online at <http://www.euclidumc.org/petitions.htm>, or see Lois for copies
  - \* learning about the lesbian pastor in Wisconsin who will be on “church trial” in April – read about Amy's trial and Gil Caldwell's commentary on the information available in Friendship Hall
    - \* go to “love on trial” to support Amy's case and to receive updates on this historic opportunity for the UMC
    - \* many believe that Amy's trial prompted the recent statement of conscience by 33 retired UM Bishops that calls for a church change
      - \* you can read the statement here <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1LtH&b=5723451&ct=9128483&notoc=1>
      - \* you can sign on to the statement yourself here <http://www.rmnetwork.org/act-now/>



*Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed.  
 You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read.  
 You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride.  
 You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.  
 We have seen the future, and the future is ours.*

~ Cesar Chavez

# STEPS FOR EQUALITY

Myths About Gay and Lesbian People — Myth #2: Homosexuality Is Abnormal

Prior to the 1880's it was believed that all people were heterosexual by nature — and that, therefore, homosexuality was abnormal. Today most experts on human behavior and morality (e.g., the American Psychological Association, many biblical scholars and theologians) understand same-gender attraction and behavior to be a normal expression of human love, fully as natural and moral as is heterosexual attraction and behavior. Source: Reconciling Ministries Network (rmnetwork.org) ~ Contributed by Dee, Emily, and Helen

## HISTORICAL NOTE

### Something we might try?

“Pastor’s column” (excerpt) from *Broadway Methodist*, April 1924

Meetings were conducted by the pastor in the church four evenings during the week preceding Easter. Thursday evening an old fashioned Methodist Love Feast\* was held, with bread and water as the emblems serving as an expression of fellowship, followed by a testimony service. The attendance upon these meetings was good and from what was said we judged the spiritual benefit received by those attending was real. The pastor was much pleased with the spiritual tone of the meetings night after night and thinks they were well worthwhile from every standpoint.

The church was filled with people both Sunday morning and evening on Easter and an uplifting influence was felt by all. The choir under the able direction of Mrs. N.M. Cummings delighted the people in the morning service.

\*Editor’s note: This was the tradition of AGAPE, a simplified version of the last supper, practiced by some early Christians. After dying out for centuries, it was revived in the early 18th century by some reformed churches. John Wesley brought it to early Methodism, probably influenced by Moravians.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

**DONATE**

**You can now donate online!** Simply go to our website and click on the “Donate” button on the home page. Please contact the office with any questions.

### March Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **April 2011** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, March 27**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to [broadwayc@ameritech.net](mailto:broadwayc@ameritech.net). Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.



# The Broadway

March 2011

**Pastor:** Rev. Lois McCullen Parr  
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**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Vernice Thorn  
akatinyt@hotmail.com

**Director of Music & Worship Arts:** Samuel-Hilaire Duplessis  
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**Affiliated Pastor:** Rev. Kevin A. Johnson, Bloom in the Desert  
revkev@bloominthedesert.org

**Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays!**  
[www.broadwaychurchchicago.org](http://www.broadwaychurchchicago.org)

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