



Broadway
United Methodist Church



The Broadway — July 2011

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The Pastor's Paragraphs

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
and the evidence of things not seen. ~ Hebrews 11:1*

*Hope is believing in spite of the evidence,
and then watching the evidence change. ~ Jim Wallis, Sojourners*

When I was in Seminary Rev. Jimmy Creech lost his clergy orders, and Rev. Greg Dell was suspended for a year – both for serving as pastor to couples by blessing their holy unions. Same-gender-loving unions.

The call I felt to ordained ministry was profound. I had turned my family's life upside down by bringing two young boys from their home and backyard swingset, and a spouse from his tenured faculty position. We lived in a Seminary apartment in Evanston and called it an adventure that God designed.

I said "yes" to ordained ministry because I believed God was using many of us to help change the United Methodist Church.

When Jimmy lost his orders, when Greg was suspended, and when my Bishop and others were arrested in Cleveland while we sang "We Shall Overcome" around the General Conference Center...well, I never thought there would be another "church trial" in 2012.

Through tears, I saw a turning point in this denomination last week when Rev. Amy DeLong received a 20-day* suspension for "spiritual discernment" and a writing assignment to speak to Covenant-making and Covenant-keeping in the Church we love and hope to change.

An act of restorative justice. God's kind of action.

I am grateful for Amy's witness, and I am grateful for the clergy colleagues who join me in saying "enough!" as we pledge to marriage equality and the care of all God's children.

I am grateful for Broadway's witness, and the Sunday after Sunday commitment to claim who we are as God's beloved, honoring our mutual commitments to our anti-racism declaration and to GLBTQ pride.

I am grateful for God's continuing presence as we affirm "in our struggle is our hope," for it is hope that keeps me sustained and gives me strength to continue to respond "yes" to God's call.



Thanks for being on the journey,

Lois +

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

* some of us will be praying with Amy in these 20 days, which begin July 1; see page 3.

Vernice's View



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This cartoon is how we began our Wednesday night study on inclusive language. Using the resource *Is it okay to call God "Mother?"* we continued a conversation that began years ago here at Broadway around inclusive language. The author, Paul Smith, a Baptist clergyman, led us through scripture and dialogue, helping us explore our own theology around the question, "who is God?" It was a powerful conversation and one I believe worthy of more study and thought for all connected to this faith community.

We discovered through scripture the many feminine ways God is known in the Bible: God as Ezer, our helper (Gen. 2:18), God as seamstress (Gen. 3:21), the womb of God (Jer.31:20, Isaiah 46:3-4), God as a woman in labor and giving birth, (Isaiah 42:14, Deut. 32:18), God as a nursing mother (Isaiah 49:15), God as a fierce mother bear (2 Samuel 17:8)...and there were numerous other images that recognize the feminine likeness of God.

We were reminded from this dialogue that though language on Sunday morning is important, what is essential is to understand how language has supported the sin of slavery, sexism and heterosexism. As an inclusive and welcoming body like Broadway UMC, this awareness, as well as the historical context, is vital because understanding it helps to sustain our very identity of being inclusive and welcoming.

With Biblical foundations which support God as mother and with a recognition of the social and spiritual unbalance with only understanding God as father, the class continued our study using Broadway's inclusive language policy adopted by the church council in December of 2000.

Though this policy is 11 years old, it is cutting edge theology. Based in scripture and history, this policy leads us beyond fact to the truth of scripture. It expands our knowledge of who God can be for us if we can only take God out of the very limiting gender box and let God be who God is (I

AM who I AM). Leaving God in that box by only referring to God as he or father, often feels comfortable and safe for us, after all that has been tradition in our churches and in scripture. However, we are a congregation that loves to push ourselves beyond our comfort zone and beyond tradition because we know from experience that that is where growth happens, that is where scripture LIVES.

So I invite us to the policy and to the book *"Is it Okay to call God "Mother?"* I promise you it will challenge and transform your faith walk. If you have questions let me know. I would even be happy to lend out my book.

What a blessing. The journey continues...



In Truth and Justice,
Vernice

Kevin's Korner

July 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)



=====

Rev Kev is on vacation. See you next month!

20 DAYS WITH AMY

On July 1st, Rev. Amy DeLong will begin her 20-day suspension, "to be used for spiritual discernment in preparation for a process seeking to restore the broken clergy covenant relationship" (words of the trial court). I propose we journey with Amy during these 20 days, using excerpts from Amy's sermon and the closing sermon by Rev. Janet Wolf. Let this be a time for us not only to support Amy in prayer but to discern how God is calling us to work for the restoration of the Church's covenant to love as Christ loves – a covenant that the UMC has broken, and continues to break, in its adherence to the homophobic and unjust laws in its *Book of Discipline*. We will provide a booklet of daily mediations for those who wish to support Amy with their prayers and to reflect on how God is calling us to work for restoration. Hard copies of the booklet will be at the church; you may also access it on the church's website ([here](#) or under "misc").

~ Carol McPherson, Rich Rituals Chair and NIC Reconciling Ministries Task Force

SOW WITHIN US!

Our summer worship theme this year is "Sow Within Us!" The motivation behind this theme comes from the poem "Living Hearts" by Charles Singer and Albert Hari, adapted below:

*Sower of living hearts,
sower of tenderness,
sower of courage,
sower of service,
sower of prayer,
sower of light.
God,
sow within us!*

*Sower of gifts,
sower of forgiveness,
sower of faith,
sower of joy,
sower of life,
sower of the Beatitudes.
God, sow
in the hearts of all people!*

*Even if we are hard
as stones,
be patient with us!
Your Good News
will manage to slip
between the tight cracks
in our rock and will
grow into giant sheaves
of Good News!*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Intergenerational VBS — “Soaring with the Eagles” (Isaiah 40:31)

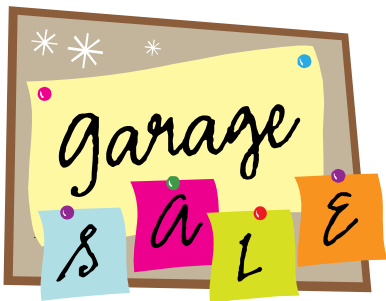
Saturday, July 16, 2011; 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

(light breakfast and lunch provided)

9:30-10:00 am	Welcome and worship
10:00-11:30 am	Adult — <i>The Artist’s Way</i> , Vision Boards, Creative writing Children — Reading scripture involving the following animals (snake, dove, donkey, lion, sheep, dove and the butterfly “representing new life”). Children will learn where in the Bible there are references to these animals and learn their habits and the relationship to people. We’ll use arts and crafts, movement and song.
11:30 am-12:00 pm	Lunch
12:00-12:30 pm	Yoga and movement
12:30-2:30 pm	Intergenerational activities: storytelling, arts and crafts
2:30-3:00 pm	Closing worship and music
3:30 pm	Sending Forth

All are welcome...Bring a friend!

BUMC PARKING LOT SALE



IT’S NEARLY HERE! Broadways “2nd Annual Parking Lot Garage Sale”!
Saturday, July 30!

Last year’s was a smashing success which made over \$1000. Let’s double that this year! How you can help? Rummage through those closets! Volunteer to sort & price items! Have a car, help in picking up items from those who do not! Pass out flyers! And the day of: set up, sales, and tear down! Join in on the fun!

For questions contact MJ Grimshaw at mgrimshaw@sbcglobal.net or 773-680-0857.

(due to lack of space, we are unable to accept any items for storage at Broadway before July 16, please; otherwise a rental space fee will be imposed!)

JULY MISSION MINUTE

The Mission Minute for July is Heifer International.



Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth.

By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, we empower them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope.

With gifts of livestock and training, we help families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways. We refer to the animals as "living loans" because in exchange for their livestock and training, families agree to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need. It's called Passing on the Gift – a cornerstone of our mission that creates an ever-expanding network of hope and peace.

More information can be found at www.heifer.org.

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

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 next two meetings are set for **Tuesdays, July 12 and 26, from 6 to 7 pm**. For more information or to participate in the planning you can contact Victor Poncé at: spirituallypositive@gmail.com.

GAY MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Our gay men's discussion group continues to be an open and affirming place for building community among the gay/queer men of the Broadway Congregation. We plan to continue our gatherings **at 7:00 pm on Tuesday nights: July 5, 12 and 26**. All gay/queer men are welcome to join us for our lively weekly discussion. Questions? Contact Victor Poncé at maq32nus@gmail.com.

WHY I GIVE

When I was a child, my family attended a Lutheran church, one of the largest and wealthiest in the Twin Cities. It was a big, beautiful building downtown, with vaulted ceilings and stained glass windows, absolutely breathtaking. A beautiful building located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the area, where there was a sizable Native American population.

My grandfather had been a founding member of the church, and my parents were upstanding members of the community. They were involved in the Christian education program for adults and kids, and we had many friends in the congregation. I learned the meaning of spiritual community there. I was getting ready to begin Confirmation classes, and the church began to go down a road that forced my family to make a difficult choice. It is illustrated by this story:

One beautiful spring day, we were having a pot luck in the parking lot. There were lots of people and lots of food. Some folks from the neighborhood lined up with the rest of us, grabbed some plates, and got ready to get some food. They were hungry.

I remember being surprised and ashamed to see someone with authority tell them that the food wasn't for them, that they were not members of the community and therefore were not welcome. The message that sent to me as a child and member of the community was that those people were not like us. They didn't look like us, they were in need, of a different economic status, and we didn't want them there to make us feel uncomfortable.

My mom took me aside later that day and was very clear with me: What that church member did was wrong, and that was not what Jesus would have done. Those people are members of the surrounding community, and should have been welcomed by us and offered food.

Shortly after that time, my parents made the difficult decision to leave the church. They made sure to let me know that the church was no longer representing their theological views, and they wanted to raise me with different values. They could no longer support or be a part of a community that was teaching exclusivity, not welcoming.

Growing into adulthood, I have struggled with claiming my place in the Christian church. I have hung out with Quakers, Buddhists, and all kinds of Christians, and I still hang out with Yogis and Yoginis. Finding a church home that feels like a good fit has been difficult. The important thing to me is that my parents instilled in me the values that Jesus taught, those of generosity, sharing, community, love, forgiveness, justice, and healing.

When I found Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago, I knew I had found my church home here. At BUMC, all are welcome. This is a community that walks the walk of social justice, generosity, and love.

So a few Sundays ago, I offered up this story as testimony, telling the story of why I financially support Broadway. I give because the transgender and gay homeless youth in the Lakeview area need our Youth Lounge program. I give because the Lakeview Pantry needs our donations of food. I give because the community needs the Wednesday Night Live adult education classes. I give because Broadway offers much needed support to members of our community who suffer from depression and mental illness. I give because Broadway is unwavering in its support of LGBT civil rights.

I give because I need Broadway, too. This church walks the walk of my theology.

I encourage other members of Broadway to share their stories about why they give, in whatever ways they give: Time, Talent, or Treasure.

~ Sarah Conner-Smith

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

Adult Education I: ***Ephesians*** Adult Ed I is studying the letter to the Ephesians. This letter sets out the privileges of being called as Christians, and the tools God has provided to allow us to prosper as Christians in a sometimes hostile secular world. **Join us at 9:50 am each Sunday.**

Adult Education II: ***Simple Abundance*** We would like to welcome anyone who is interested to join us in exploring *Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. *Simple Abundance* is a daily meditation/journal project, with verses and readings for a full year. It has a special first month starting point, however, which is what we will be discovering and sharing about during the month of July. *Simple Abundance* can be purchased at many local bookstores and is available online for as little as five or six dollars (that includes shipping and handling). It is important that you get the book as soon as possible. **We will begin the readings on Sunday, July 3, 2011 and will have our first meeting/discussion on Sunday, July 10, during the 10:00 AM study time and continue for four Sundays (through July 31),** sharing our various thoughts and comments regarding the each week of study. If you have participated in daily meditation/journal in the past and fallen by the wayside, or have been interested but never exactly sure how to begin one, this is an excellent study for you. It will be very loosely lead by Curtis Bewley. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

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: *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Join us for a lively discussion as we listen to what Barbara Brown Taylor calls the "Altar in the World." Discover the sacred in all things and places surrounding you. Books can be purchased online at Amazon. **Wednesday evenings in July at 7 pm.**

SPIRIT LAKE

Broadway's mission trip to Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota was very successful. The team consisted of Rev. Lois, Craig Fitzgerald, Diana Davis and Clayton Parr plus our friends Geoff Graham from North Northfield UMC and Neil Goudriaan from Oregon. We built a ramp for Amy and Earl, an elderly couple on the reservation, and worked around the Ministry Center with our missionary friends Mike and Libby Flowers. We helped celebrate Mike's installation as licensed local pastor in the Dakotas Conference. For more information, or to contribute to the work of the Center, see www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011

June 8-11, 2011
Pheasant Run St. Charles.

Abundant

On June 8, Diana Davis, MJ Grimshaw and Reverend Lois McCullen Parr set off to the annual conference in St. Charles. This year's agenda was very important; we voted for delegates of laity and clergy for the general conference.

Lay delegates elected to General Conference: Lonnie Chafin (vice chair), Roger Curless, Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger and Irma Clark.

Clergy delegates to General Conference: Tracy Smith Malone (chair), James Preston, Gregory Gross and Alka Lyall.

Lay delegates elected to Jurisdictional: Rita Smith, Jack Ryder, Elisa Gatz and Harriet McCabe (secretary). Lay Alternates are Daniel Viana and Charla Antrobus.

Clergy delegates elected to Jurisdictional include Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng, Luis Reyes, Chris Pierson, and Daniel Diss.

Clergy alternates are Martin Lee and Melissa Meyers.

The General Conference is from Tuesday, April 24, through Friday, May 4, 2012 in Tampa, FL and the Jurisdictional Conference is currently scheduled for July 17-21, 2012, in Akron, OH.

The 900-level legislation that Broadway co-sponsored was overwhelmingly approved. These petitions to remove from the *Book of Discipline* all discriminatory language related to homosexuality now go on to the 2012 General Conference. For copies of the legislation, see: <http://www.euclidumc.org/petitions.htm>.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung's Address:

The General Church has studied the current state of United Methodism and Called us to Action. The Council of Bishops and Connectional Table remind us that vital congregations are essential to our witness. We know that effective pastoral leadership, multiple small groups, mixtures of worship style and spiritually engaged laity are the "**Together We Serve, United By Love**", is not always an easy endeavor. Our unity is not about all of us thinking alike or looking alike or acting alike. We are a diverse people; we are east and west, rural, urban and suburban. We are Asian, African American, Native American, Latino/Hispanic and Caucasian. We are theologically diverse, we are politically and socially diverse. Yet, when we heed the words of Philippians 2:4 "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others", we can be a dynamic force for change, for witness, for the Kingdom of God, key drivers toward our future.

Some of the highlights of the conference were the Bible studies that were presents by Ray Buckley. His stories of his life as a Native American were heard with pain, compassion, humor and awe. His presence was that of calm and his voice one that invites you to sit at his knee wanting to hear more.

Ray Buckley is the interim Director of the Center for Native American Spirituality and Christian Study. Buckley has served The United Methodist Church as a staff member of The United Methodist Publishing House, Director of the Native People's Communication Office (UMCom) for nine years, and Director of Connectional Ministries for the Alaska Missionary Conference.

Buckley is the author /illustrator of five books: *God's Love is Like...* (1998, Abingdon Press), *The Give-Away: A Christmas Story in the Native American Tradition* (1999, Abingdon Press), *The Wing* (2002, Abingdon Press), *Christmas Moccasins* (2003, Abingdon Press), and *Dancing with Words: Storytelling as Legacy, Culture, and Faith* (Discipleship Resources, 2003). He is also the author of *Creator Sang a Welcoming Song* (2007), and *Walking in These White Man Shoes* (2007), children and youth resources for the Women's Division School of Missions. *The Give-Away* was selected to appear on the CBS Christmas Eve special, *An American Christmas*, produced by the National Council of Churches. His stories, poetry, and art have appeared in numerous journals, periodicals, books, and museums. Buckley has taught in Nigeria, and Ghana, and served as a lecturer in Native American studies for several universities.

Ray Buckley was a keynote speaker at the Jubilee 2000, Cardinal Maeda Institute. At the invitation of the Council of Canadian Catholic Bishops, he has twice appeared on the nationally televised Canadian Catholic Broadcasting Corporation's Lenten series. In July 2001, Ray was a keynote speaker at the General Synod of the UCC/Disciples of Christ General Assembly. In 2003, 2004, and 2007, Mr. Buckley was a guest lecturer at the Pontifical Biblical Institute of the Vatican.

Ray was chosen as the Howard Preacher for Phillip's Theological Seminary, delivered the McDonald Lecture Series (New Mexico), and the Ira Galloway Lecture Series (Peoria, IL). Buckley was one of five keynote speakers at Youth 2007 (SPLAT), sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship.

Ray Buckley is one of several Native leaders profiled in *As Long As the Waters Flow: Native Americans in the South and East*, by Frye Gillard, and *The Power of Eagles: Natures Way to Individual Accomplishment*, by Twyman L. Towery." (Source Abingdon Press.com 2011)

It was also amazing to see that there were so many clergy (24) that were retiring. They each spoke in turn with some interesting words of wisdom. Just as there were many retiring there were quite a few who were being ordained.

As we move forward and this being Diana's third time representing Broadway at annual conference, she sees there has been a slight shift in the inclusion in reference to "all means all." There were more people showing their support as well as asking questions. This is not to say that there were some who chose to say little or nothing; there seemed to be more of a respectful tone in conversations. For the first time we saw that there was a person doing sign language. We sang songs in various languages. There were consistent reports made by the monitors to ensure and inform us that there was or was not equality happening between ethnicity, races, gender, age and the list continued to grow.

May we also add that the new friends, fellowships and the reconnecting with other churches in the conference encourages and invites us to remember that we are all connected. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions — we love talking about our experience!

Diana Davis and MJ Grimshaw

BUMC Lay Delegates 2011

TIME FOR THE COOKBOOK!

Do you think a cookbook is a good idea? Are there enough people at Broadway who like to cook and have good recipes for us to have our own Broadway Cookbook? Do you have one or more recipes for the categories listed below?

If your answer is YES to these questions then choose one or more of the following categories and send us your recipes for dishes you usually bring, or are appropriate for:

- Coffee Hour (cookies, muffins, breads)
- Bible Study Snacks (appetizers, desserts, beverages)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (soups, chili, corn bread, desserts)
- Pot Luck Dishes (salads, casseroles, side dishes, desserts)
- Vegetarian and Vegan Dishes
- Casseroles for the Homebound
- Garden Recipes (using products from the garden)
- Youth Lounge

Type if possible or neatly print in ink. One recipe per page. Send or give your recipes to Fran Markwardt, franmarkw@att.net, or Dee Dorsey, missdeecj@sbcglobal.net.

Include: Category, Recipe Title, Your Name. If there is something special about your recipe -- for example, who gave it to you, it was your mother's favorite, etc., include that too.

Use abbreviations: pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.

Show number of servings.

CHOMP AND CHAT

We would like to extend an invitation to the next Chomp and Chat on **July 10 after the 11:00 service** in Friendship Hall.

Please bring your choice of one of the following to share with our community of friends:

- * side dish,
- * veggie tray,
- * chips,
- * beverage or
- * dessert.



We look forward to seeing you there. Any questions contact Fran Markwardt at franmarkw@att.net or Diana Davis at 773-960-9142. All are welcome!

STEPS FOR EQUALITY

Myth #4 Homosexuality can be “cured.”

Homosexuality is not an illness. It does not require treatment and is not “changeable.” (American Psychological Association) Be leery of therapies which claim to be able to change lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons into heterosexuals. “Conversion” and “Reparative” therapy models have been repeatedly discredited by the American Psychological Association and the American Medical Association. In fact, they have proven to be unsuccessful, disastrously destructive, and can even lead to suicidal thoughts and actions.

“Recent publicized efforts to repathologize homosexuality by claiming that it can be cured are often guided not by rigorous scientific or psychiatric research, but sometimes by religious and political forces opposed to full civil rights for gay men and lesbians.” (American Psychiatric Association, 2000)

~submitted by Helen Nagel, straight but not narrow

HISTORICAL NOTE

Perhaps the most deserving segment of our community.

Are any men interested in helping out?

“Sunday School” (excerpt) from *Broadway Methodist*, April 1924

It is generally believed that at no stage of life is a person so near to God and heaven as in infancy. If you would listen for a few moments to the innocent prattle of the members of our beginners department you would be convinced of the truth of this statement. There is no greater power on earth than the love of a small child, and they are so generous with it. We need teachers here. Are there not several women in our church who will help us? The reward in satisfaction to yourself is much greater than the service rendered.

~ 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.

August Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the **August 2011** issue of *The Broadway* are due **Sunday, July 24th**. Articles in electronic format are preferred and should be sent to broadwayc@ameritech.net. Hard copies may also be submitted in the newsletter mailbox off Friendship Hall.



The Broadway

July 2011

Pastor: **Rev. Lois McCullen Parr**
gizhilois@yahoo.com

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

Director of Music & Worship Arts: **Samuel-Hilaire Duplessis**
Duplessis.Sam@gmail.com

Student Pastor: **Benjamin Bower**
Benjamin.Bower@garrett.edu

Office Manager: **Alexia Rivera**
broadwayc@ameritech.net

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

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