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# The Broadway

DECEMBER, 2013

## Letter from Lois

*And Mary brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes  
and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

~ Luke 2:7

*Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.  
~ Christina Rossetti*

I don't remember a single present I got for Christmas when I was a little kid. What I remember are hand-made stockings and a crèche that was beneath a wobbly Christmas tree with those big bulbs and a lot of ornaments. I remember helping my Grandma set the tables for an extra-large gathering of extended family. I remember eating food. I remember people I love who loved me.

Have you heard people talk about "love languages?" Often the conversation is helpful to couples: author Dr. Gary Chapman has come up with five "languages" people express and respond to in understanding love – they are "words of affirmation," "quality time," "physical touch," "acts of service," and "receiving gifts." Chapman says that knowing your own language as well as the language of those with whom you are in relationship helps to keep the relationship healthy.

I've been thinking about these "languages" because I don't really like to get gifts. That may sound impossible to other people, but it's true: the language of love that I "speak" is *quality time*. The memories I have of my childhood holidays – and the experiences of my adult life – place *spending time together* at the top of my list of Christmas dreams.

It's that way for me in my community of faith, too. It isn't adding more things to the schedule or buying additional decorations or thinking up elaborate schemes. It's *being together*. Worshiping on Sundays; studying on Wednesdays. Listening to our individual stories, and our common stories of ministry, and God's story.

It's finding the simplicity in slowing down, in paying attention to the present moment and the people who are with me. It's again telling the story of a simple family who traveled, felt left out, and found a place to get warm so that a divine baby could be born.

Theologically, we call that "Incarnation." John's Gospel calls it "Word made flesh."

I like to think of it as God's "love language."

On the journey with you,



Rev. Lois McCullen Parr



## Vernice's View

As I sit to write this article it is in the aftermath of a fast moving storm that triggered multiple tornadoes in Illinois and Indiana killing six people and leaving some towns totally demolished and thousands of homes without power. My heart ached as I listened to people talk about all they had lost, even as they attempted to balance that with being thankful for being alive.

As we move into this time of Advent I hope we do so remembering to acknowledge and balance, as best we can, the reality of both sorrow and joy.

The tragedy that many suffered in the storm should remind us that there are some for whom holiday time is not a joyous time. And as a community of love and care we are called to reach out to those of us who will have difficulty during this season.

Our "Longest Night" service is one attempt to do just that. Healing happens in community and so we gather as community for a **Longest Night Candlelight Brunch from 12-2pm, on Saturday December 21st.** It will

be a time of introspection; a time of remembering the gifts and the sorrows of life. We will sing and pray and eat together as we share stories of struggle and transformation.

As we claim all that life offers, we will meet **Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18th at 7pm for our Advent Study, led by Krista Paradiso.** Our resource is a memoir by Kenny Fries titled *Body, Remember*. One review says this: "Kenny Fries's journey into memory through paying attention to his body's wounds and its capacity for ecstasy is deeply significant. Here, at last, is a memoir that we can all use to chart the interconnectedness of our own personal body/mind/spirit histories." ~ Louise DeSalvo, author of *Vertigo*.

Advent is a very spiritual time for me; a time where no matter what I am feeling, no matter what life circumstance I am negotiating, I try to keep my heart in tune to the gentleness, the quiet and the searching that is Advent. Advent reminds me of soft clouds and first snows. It's a time of deep reflection, of stillness, of wonder.

Each year as Advent begins I stop, exhale, shut out the noise... and search for the holy. I know it's there, but often it is hidden, sometimes just beneath my sadness or my busyness.

There are those of us who love the busyness; the shopping, the baking, but it is also a time of deep loneliness and despair for some. As we go through Advent into Christmas, let us pay close attention to both in our lives and in our community. Let's use Advent as a time to prepare our hearts and spirits for the celebration and joy of whatever comes next. I invite us to do that together, as community. I look forward to sharing this Advent Journey with each of you this year.

Peace and Justice,

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

Let's use  
Advent as a  
time to prepare  
our hearts and  
spirits for the  
celebration and  
joy of whatever  
comes next.

## Stewardship Sunday

On **Sunday, December 8**, we will be invited to make our annual financial pledges for 2014. Please pledge mindfully and with joy!

# BUMC Advent & Christmas Season 2013



## Keep It Simple this Season

<b>Advent Worship Services</b>	Sundays (Dec. 1-22) at 8:45 and 11am
<b>Book Study (<i>Body, Remember</i>)</b>	Wednesdays (Dec. 4-18) at 7pm
<b>Annual Church Conference</b>	Saturday, December 7 at 2:30pm
<b>Christmas Concert</b>	Sunday, December 15 at 2pm
<b>Longest Night Candlelight Brunch</b>	Saturday, December 21 at 12noon
<b>Family Christmas Eve Service</b>	Tuesday, December 24 at 4:30pm
<b>Christmas Eve Service of Light</b>	Tuesday, December 24 at 7pm
<b>Service of Meditation and Candlelight</b>	Tuesday, December 24 at 11pm
<b>Kwanzaa Service</b>	Sunday, December 29 at 10am

## Hanging of the Greens

Join in the festivities, fellowship and fun with the annual Hanging of the Greens on:

**Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 11:00am to 2:30pm**

Help decorate Broadway Church for the joyous season of Advent and Christmas. Many hands make light work and we promise a great time. Come help us decorate, make new friends, rekindle old acquaintances and share in the spirit of the season that is Advent At Broadway!



## Longest Night Candlelight Brunch

**12-2pm, on Saturday, December 21st**

It will be a time of introspection; a time of remembering the gifts and the sorrows of life. We will sing and pray and eat together as we share stories of struggle and transformation.

## Church/Charge Conference

Broadway's Church/Charge Conference with our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Zaki L. Zaki is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7 at 2:30pm**. All are invited to this annual meeting. Also, we are invited by our District Superintendent to bring a copy of a photo of a "neighbor" that we might continue our NIC reflections on "Who Is My Neighbor?".

# December Mission Minute

**Bickford-Land Clinic** for mothers and children was organized to provide holistic clinical care, education and support to HIV infected Vietnamese orphaned children and their affected families. The Clinic provides support so that these children and their families can live together, with improved quality of life, knowing that they are accepted, understood, loved and cared for while maintaining confidentiality and integrity. They ensure access to medical care, treatment, testing, integrated education, and social services. 5 Loaves 2 Fishes Foundation, Inc. ([www.5and2.org](http://www.5and2.org)) is a U.S. not-for-profit (501(c)3) created solely to fund the Bickford-Land Clinic for mothers and children, located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. All deductions are tax deductible.

**Mission Minute Sunday is December 8**, but you can donate throughout the month – make checks out to Broadway UMC and designate your check or envelope to “Bickford-Land Clinic” or “December Mission Minute”. You can also donate [online](#).

Brenda Wolfe from the Bickford-Land Clinic will be coming to **our 11:00 service on December 8** to present December’s Mission Minute. She will also be bringing a few fair trade scarves/purses made by women served at their clinic in Viet Nam, which she will have available for sale. This organization was at our 2012 local/fair trade market.

*This Mission Minute is brought to you by Susan Armstrong and the Sowers.*

## Socks & Gently-Used-Coats Drive

We are having our annual Youth Lounge Christmas Dinner on December 25th at Broadway.

As the temperature drops, we are starting our annual socks and gently-used-coat drive. We will give the items to our youth on Wednesday, December 25th, and **would like to have all donations by Christmas Eve.**

Please let us know if you can assist.

For more information, please contact Cindy ([cindy@youthlounge.org](mailto:cindy@youthlounge.org)) or Vincent ([vincent@youthlounge.org](mailto:vincent@youthlounge.org) or 773.450.6706).

Thank you for your support in the love work.

## Homeless Persons’ Memorial

In the shadows of the Magnificent Mile...

Our brothers and sisters without homes...

Are losing the struggle for their lives.

They will not go unremembered.

Please join us.

Together, as the nights reach their longest and darkest, we honor them.

**Tuesday, December 17 at 6pm.**

**Old St. Patrick’s Church (700 W Adams St)**

For more information or to RSVP: 312-226-9184;  
[www.ispretreats.org](http://www.ispretreats.org).

# Sunday Adult Education Hour

Please join us on **Sunday mornings at 10:15am** 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 soon: *The Artist’s Way*.

# Children’s Education Time



Sundays at 11:15am.

If you are interested in leading Children’s Education Time please contact Rev. Thorn ([akatinyt@hotmail.com](mailto:akatinyt@hotmail.com)) or Jenn Peterson ([jpbrnidgrl@gmail.com](mailto:jpbrnidgrl@gmail.com))

# Safe Sanctuary Meeting

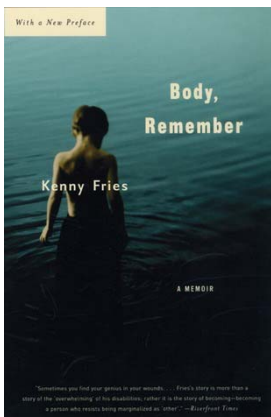
At this meeting, we plan to begin the next phase of our safe sanctuary policy of writing the actual nuts and bolts of the policy. Everyone is invited to participate. Join the team **Sunday, December 1, after the 11am service.**

# 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.

# Advent Study



For our Advent Study this year we will read *Body, Remember: A Memoir (Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies)* by Kenny Fries. This study will take place on **Wednesday evenings at 7pm for three weeks: December 4, 11, and 18th** led by Krista Paradiso. Please join us for this discussion. If you are interested in getting the book ahead of time, let either Pastor Vernice or Krista know.

*In this poetic, introspective memoir, Kenny Fries illustrates his intersecting identities as gay, Jewish, and disabled. While learning about the history of his body through medical records and his physical scars, Fries discovers just how deeply the memories and psychic scars run. As he reflects on his relationships with his family, his compassionate doctor, the brother who resented his disability, and the men who taught him to love, he confronts the challenges of his life. Body, Remember is a story about connection, a redemptive and passionate testimony to one man’s search for the sources of identity and difference.*

# Church Work Day Special Thanks!

Our Church Work Day on October 10 was a success due to the many, many loving & caring hands of our Broadway family! There is always a long list of projects that need to be done to keep up our beloved building! We finished many items on the list that day and will continue throughout the year!

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this unofficial, essential team effort, there are jobs for every ability! Please contact me by email ([mgrimshaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgrimshaw@sbcglobal.net)) or 773.680.0857!

A special thanks to the following: Ruth, Helen, Loraine, Keri, Kathy, Charolette, Victor, Kevin, Lois, Clayton, Tim, Chuck, and Latoya! And those continuing projects: Chris, Mel, and Satia!

It takes many hands to keep our village going.

Our sincere heartfelt Thanks!

MJ Grimshaw

Chair, PCG

# Vendors Market Special Thanks!

Thanks for all who helped by promotion, setting up, performing, providing hospitality, serving as vendors, shopping, and/or cleaning up!

Our Broadway vendors were:

Reclaimedmosaics (Dawn)

His Body/Her Body inc (Demetrius)

Mama's Attic (Satia)

White Cat Creations (Reed)

Keri's Creations (Keri) (proceeds to BUMC -- thanks!)

The Fickle Dinosaur (Tricia)

Lori Ackatz' mom and others who also donated goods to sell.

Not-for-profit reps were BUMC & Youth Lounge, CWACM, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (ACA Specialist) and PFLAG Entertainment by George Banks Drum Circle, *Alioni*, Joey Glase, Lamar Adams and The Reclaimers.

There were so many people who helped all day long -- it's hard to list everyone for fear of missing someone...but special thanks to those who stayed to the very end to make sure that everything was ready for Sunday Worship.

Thanks to Sowers who helped (Paula, Fran, Victor, Susan, Mel, Clayton, Cindy, Lois), our official sponsor of the event.

Biggest thanks to Cindy who made it happen!

2013 ADVENT SEASON POINSETTIAS

BROADWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Broadway UMC invites you to join in decorating our Sanctuary with Poinsettias in celebration of Advent and Christmas. As in years past, the Environment team will handle acquiring the plants and decorating the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up to donate one or more. The cost is \$12.00 per plant. This year we will decorate with the Poinsettias the 3rd Sunday in Advent (December 15th) and ask that they remain through Christmas Eve (December 24th). To order your plant, please complete the information on quantity, color, and dedication below along with your name, address and phone number.

**PLEASE, place your donation by Sunday, December 8th, 2013 to ensure reserving a plant/color.**

Submit with check payable to Broadway UMC with "Advent Flowers" in the memo. Mail to or bring to the church Attn: "Advent Season Flowers" or give to a member of the Environment Team.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Each plant is branched with approximately 5-7 flowers.

Poinsettia Color choices:            Red                            White

Quantity Each:                            \_\_\_\_\_                            \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity x \$12.00 Each            \$ \_\_\_\_\_                            \$ \_\_\_\_\_                            Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_



The United Methodist Church has been in the news this month over the prophetic and pastoral leadership of those who are committed to being in ministry with ALL. Read more about it on the following pages, and speak with Lois if you still have questions. You may also find summaries on the Reconciling Ministries Network website at [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org).

# A Statement from the Pastors of Broadway United Methodist Church

November 21, 2013

Yesterday we experienced the great joy of celebrating full legal marriage equality in our state of Illinois. We worked and prayed and marched and testified to support this law of justice, and yesterday's celebration victory was a sign of hope for us.

Yet our joy has been mitigated by the sorrow we feel for the state of the United Methodist Church: we have mourned the statement from the United Methodist Council of Bishops that calls for a complaint to be filed against the faithful prophet retired Bishop Mel Talbert for celebrating Bobby and Joe's marriage; we have asked our own Northern Illinois Conference Bishop Sally Dyck to respond to that and have appreciated that she voted against the action and calls for the space for all of us to the ministry to which we are called; we have mourned the church trial verdict calling for a surrender of orders from Rev. Frank Schaefer, whose celebration of his son's marriage to his partner has become a new call for him to serve as an advocate for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) persons.

The pain of the Council of Bishops' statement and Rev. Schaefer's trial is a familiar one for the Broadway community, as we re-live Rev. Greg Dell's trial and suspension in 1999. Rev. Dell's ministry has shaped this community. Greg's legacy here is one of justice-seeking faith. We stand on his shoulders as we today re-commit ourselves to justice and the love of God.

We understand the need to mourn, and we give space for grief. We understand the need for and purpose of anger, and we encourage people to be honest about their rage and pain.

And yet: we hold onto hope.

We are a people who ground ourselves in the hope of new life, the Resurrection promise that comes from the Gospel story (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-21:25).

We are a people who believe that our expressions of justice come right from the Word of God: "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"(Amos 5:24).

We are a people who believe that "the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32).

We are a people who believe that "nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).

Our relationship with the United Methodist Church is complicated: our members may choose to unite with our faith community as "Broadway only" members or "denominational members" and our stewardship gives people the option to choose whether or not they wish any of their giving to be directed to the denomination. We operate with a non-

*(continued on page 11...)*



# Statement from Matt Berryman, RMN Executive Director

November 20, 2013

“The whole world is watching,” said Rev. Bob Coombe, counsel for the Rev. Frank Schaefer. Indeed the world is watching and will continue to watch as The United Methodist Church continues to steamroll right over its faithful lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) persons.

After hearing a range of perspectives from testifying witnesses, the trial court, composed of clergy members from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, found Rev. Schaefer guilty of celebrating his son Tim’s same-sex wedding over six years ago. Among the witnesses was Rev. Schaefer himself, who humbly declared that he will now take up the mantle of advocate, prophet, and truth-teller on behalf of LGBTQ persons. In an awe-inspiring moment, Schaefer declared that he will not treat the LGBTQ members of the body of Christ as “second-class Christians.” Following the verdict, the trial court suspended Rev. Schaefer from his pastoral duties for 30 days while also requiring him to report to his Board of Ordained Ministry as to whether or not he will be able to uphold the Book of Discipline in its entirety. If, at the conclusion of his 30 day suspension, Rev. Schaefer does not agree to uphold the Book of Discipline in its entirety, the penalty stipulates that he must surrender his orders.

The whole world was watching as many of us who gathered at Camp Innabah to support Rev. Schaefer and his family sang our protest right alongside our praise. Remembering all those LGBTQ saints who have endured suffering and death at the hands of the church’s ongoing sin and oppression, this hymn filled that old gymnasium-turned-church courtroom: “were you there when they crucified my Lord?” The whole world was watching...and listening. Finally, it was Rev. Schaefer alongside the Rev. Steve Heiss who celebrated the Eucharist of Christ’s death and resurrection.

The whole world was watching as the body of Christ was broken yet again for a broken church, a broken world, and the broken bodies of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons. As I watched person after person receive the sacrament of the crucified and risen Christ, I realized that no matter what the church says or does, no matter how many times the church crucifies the bodies and spirits of LGBTQ persons, we are the body of Christ, each one, member for member, and therefore carry within us our own resurrection. It was our own mystery that was placed on the table, our own death and resurrection as well as the death and resurrection of Jesus—present in the body. And it was Rev. Schaefer: father, pastor, prophet, and now...advocate who, in great humility and love, served us all, including Bishop Gwinn and other officials. Together, we received each others’ mystery—the crucified and resurrected body. “If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering.”

The whole world was watching, indeed is still watching. As we remember the broken body of Christ, the broken body of the church, and the broken bodies of all the marginalized, oppressed, and afflicted, we particularly call to mind our transgender family members as we observe Transgender Day of Remembrance, an occasion for re-memorizing the transgender saints whose bodies bear the wounds of oppression and violence.

Inspired by Rev. Schaefer, may we find new ways as pastors, prophets, advocates, and friends to affirm and embrace our transgender family members and one another.

Sincerely,

Matt Berryman, Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) Executive Director

# Open Letter to the Northern Illinois Conference from our Bishop

November 19, 2013

The action and responses to the Council of Bishops' statement regarding Bishop Mel Talbert's celebration of a marriage between Joe Openshaw and Bobby Prince in Alabama have been like the other Sunday afternoon when turbulent weather swirled across the state of Illinois. While the literal storms have subsided, the spiritual, ecclesial, theological, and relational storms caused by the statement of the Council of Bishops continue within each of us, between us, and around us as people called United Methodist in the Northern Illinois Conference and across the church.

The storms brewed up for me at the Council of Bishops. There was a strong, but not unanimous, belief that Bishop Talbert's actions necessitated their response because he went into another bishop's territory after the expressed wish that he not do so. This became the dominant topic of discussion. But some voted against the statement, including myself, because it keeps making less and less space to be faithful followers of Jesus and loving family members, friends, pastoral leaders, and yes, even bishops.

As I have already stated publicly, the good thing about the COB's statement is that it finally recognizes that we are not of one mind on human sexuality. This is a long overdue statement. But in making this statement, there needs to be space for people to exist, live, thrive, grow, and fulfill their calling as laity and clergy within the church. If it was just a handful of dissidents in the church who disagreed with the Book of Discipline, that would be one thing. But those of us who need space comprise at least, if not more than, half the American population and increasingly more and more people within and throughout the church.

Not allowing space for people who long for an open church is counter-productive to fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The church and its leaders long for "more people, younger people, and more diverse people." But with "more people, younger people (and not so young), and more diverse people" come people for whom the matters of human sexuality aren't a stumbling block in faith but quite the contrary. When we aren't open and welcoming of all people, our statements on human sexuality are an impediment, causing many within the church to become disappointed in the UMC and to feel that we are being hypocritical in what Jesus would have us be and do. We need space so we can grow and be vital.

I also understand that there are some in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference who believe that the Council of Bishops acted appropriately, based on deeply held convictions. While there are some of you who don't want the church to budge an inch, I also know there are others of you who are weary of this longtime, ongoing division.

Instead of framing this as an either-or position that necessitates either-or responses, can we reframe it? Can we figure out how to negotiate space for all to exist in the church for the purpose of fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ?

In Acts 15, the early church found itself in a conflict over the law as well as accepted and deeply held assumptions and traditions about who people are (circumcised or uncircumcised). It was a visceral reaction by some against Paul and others who were reaching out to the (uncircumcised) Gentiles. They stood on the side of the law but the church found a way to be together that seemed to work. I don't think it changed all the hearts and minds of the Jewish

*(continued on page 12...)*

# A Statement from the Pastors...

*(continued from page 8)*

traditional and non-hierarchical leadership model in seeking to live out “the ministry of all Christians,” a United Methodist value. We read the Bible with heart and mind, and in community.

We are co-pastors in shared ministry; one of us is ordained through the denomination and the other holds credentials with the Church Within a Church Movement.

We, and our congregation, made a commitment two years ago to open our sanctuary to celebrate all marriages. We continue our commitment as we celebrate the legal rights now available to all couples.

Every Sunday we celebrate that we are a community of faith dedicated to living as an anti-racist institution and an open and affirming Reconciling United Methodist congregation. We celebrate the fullness of who we are each week, claiming that the first name we are given, by God, is “beloved.”

To our congregation we say: we are here. We love you. We seek to embody God’s love and justice.

To the wider community we say: we are connected with the United Methodist Church – and, like you, we are enraged with the pain it causes us and people we love.

To God we say: we seek to be faithful.

And today, here’s what we do: we finalize plans for this Saturday’s Spanish as a Second Language class; we confirm the volunteers who are coming to serve at our Youth Lounge outreach this weekend; we cook a meal for those same youth; we rehearse the choir for Sunday services; we put the finishing touches on our Bible Study dialogue for Sunday; we pick-up the turkeys we’ll hand out so folks can cook for our community Thanksgiving meal.

And, “From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise...And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:8-9)

In love and justice,

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr, UMC Pastor

Rev. Vernice Thorn, CWACM Pastor



# Open Letter..

*(continued from page 10...)*

Christians but at least it wasn't impeding the outreach to the Gentiles. (Please read the chapter to see what they did and how they did it.)

I love this annual conference. But I don't want our annual conference, which is made up of diverse but divided beliefs on human sexuality, to exhaust our resources of time, focus, energy and money (up to \$100,000 if it goes to a trial) on filing complaints against clergy who are following their conscience. Frankly, I don't want my resources of energy and focus to be exhausted by people filing complaints against each other or me. I will be announcing in the near future some evening, open gatherings where we can discuss how we can reframe this conversation, based on Acts 15.

I want us to find a negotiated way forward so that we can love our neighbors as ourselves. In addition to my concern and care for the inclusiveness of the church in terms of human sexuality, I also want the Northern Illinois Conference to love our neighbors who are immigrants as we become more immigrant-friendly. I want us to love our neighbors by engaging our communities which are gripped by poverty whether it's in the city of Chicago or the most rural church in the conference. I want us to spend our time and energy to start new churches, including people who are already open and welcoming to LGBTQ people or are so designated themselves and desire the love and grace of Jesus Christ just as we do. I want us to love our neighbors by eliminating deaths from malaria. I want us to focus our time, energy and money as an annual conference in reaching out, loving our neighbor, and fulfilling our mission.

For the six times it mentions homosexuality in the scriptures, repeatedly Jesus called us to love one another and Paul admonished the early church to be as one (in the New Testament alone the word love appears over 200 times). When he mentioned being of the same mind, I don't think he meant being of the same mind on any particular topic, including human sexuality; I think he meant being of the same mind in following Jesus, loving our neighbor and caring for one another.

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 2:1-5)*

~Bishop Sally Dyck

Merry  
Christmas



**Winter Warming 2014**  
 A midwest regional gathering of Reconciling United Methodists working for a fully inclusive church  
 Co-hosted by NIC Reconciling Task Force & NIC MFSA



**SATURDAY, JAN 18TH (MLK weekend)**  
**FIRST UMC ELMHURST, IL**  
 AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS, DINNER, EVENING WORSHIP

**FEATURED PREACHER:**  
 Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey

**FEATURED MUSICAL LEADERSHIP:**  
 MATT BERRYMAN

## Historical Note

### A tradition to be continued?

“Sunday School” (excerpt);  
*Broadway Methodist*, December, 1923

Sunday afternoon, December 23, at 4pm, the Sunday School will have their annual Christmas exercises. Brother Oetting has kindly consented to do the decorating, which means that it will be done well. The children have worked diligently and we expect to have an interesting program. We invite you all to come and bring the children of your acquaintance.

~ submitted by Mark Van Hying, Church Historian

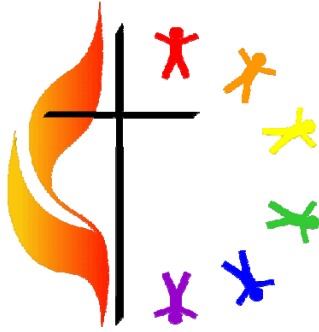
## Newsletter Deadline

The Newsletter will be taking a break in January 2014. (Please see bulletins and the website for information and events for January.) **See you in February 2014!**

**Merry Christmas!**

**Happy Kwanzaa!**

**Happy New Year!**



## **Broadway United Methodist Church**

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

Phone: 773-348-2679  
Fax: 773-348-2521

**Sunday Worship at 8:45 and 11am**

## **Celebrating God's Love for ALL People**

### **BROADWAY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

“God calls Broadway United Methodist Church to be a faith community embracing the diversity of our Chicago neighborhood and larger community. We welcome all persons – celebrating the human family’s God-given diversity of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental capacity. We also welcome persons of all social and economic classes and faith backgrounds. At Broadway, we are accepted into God’s nurturing family, which invites us into spiritual growth through worship, study, mission, and social action. We are grateful for the opportunities God gives us to experience and share the love of Christ.”

**Pastor: Rev. Lois McCullen Parr**  
[gizhilois@yahoo.com](mailto:gizhilois@yahoo.com)

**Pastor: Rev. Vernice Thorn**  
[akatinyt@hotmail.com](mailto:akatinyt@hotmail.com)

**Praise & Worship Leader:**  
**Jacqueline H. Boyd**  
[jacquelineh.boyd1@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelineh.boyd1@gmail.com)

**Office Manager: Alexia Rivera**  
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**Youth Lounge Ambassador: Cindy Grissom**  
[cindy@youthlounge.org](mailto:cindy@youthlounge.org)

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

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

or scan code at right for our donation page.

