

Lexington & Blue
United Methodist
Churches

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The Voice

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The Voice

Lexington & Blue United Methodist Churches

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

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It's the Month of Love

Here are a few scriptures to remind us how much God **loves** us!

For God so **loved** the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

See what great **love** the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1

Follow God's example; therefore, as dearly **loved** children and walk in the way of **love**, just as Christ **loved** us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined." – Isaiah 9:2

Dear Church Family,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. This month I want to talk a little about leadership since it is something that has been on my mind quite a bit lately. As the new year continues to swing into gear we have new leaders and old taking their places in our respective congregations in Lexington and Blue. This also happens to be a time in between Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Presidents' Day. At this time of year we remember a leader who gave it all for the cause of changing our nation into a place where all people are judged not based on the color of their skin, but instead on the content of their character. We also remember great leaders who forged our land into a new nation by bringing freedom and liberty to an oppressed people. And in case you have not noticed it yet, 2016 happens to be an election year and we are now well into a season of choosing new leadership, from our community all the way up to Washington, D.C.

As many of you know by now, I am in a program called the Advancing Pastoral Leadership (APL) program, which is designed to strengthen the leadership skills of young pastors across the South-Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Pastors from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, and so forth gather regularly to hone their skills in preaching, administration, and service so that they can better lead our congregations. As part of my work in APL I recently have been reading an excerpt entitled Leading From Within from the book Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer. I wanted to share with you some insights into leadership from Mr. Palmer because it directly affects all of us as United Methodists and as citizens in our little part of Texas.

Leadership is a concept that many people resist because of a sense of modesty and also because of cynicism that many people feel regarding our visible leaders today (Have you watched any presidential debates lately?). But the reality is that if we are truly a people who were made for community, which certainly God has made us to be, then leadership is actually everyone's vocation. Our close-knit system of community is a place where everyone follows and everyone leads, often at the same time. Whether we realize it or not, we lead by word and deed simply because we are here in our community doing what we do. What we must realize, though, is that the power for authentic leadership comes not from special external arrangements (elected positions, titles, etc.) but instead from the human heart. God has placed within our hearts a power that can truly liberate the world...assuming we use that power in such a way. While some leaders are really good at managing external matters such as budgets and schedules, true leadership requires someone who can also manage that power that lies inside each and every person – it takes a healthy balance to lead. Without such balance then a leader (which can be any one of us) may intentionally or unintentionally cast more of a shadow of darkness than a beam of light upon the land.

I pray that all of us, as leaders in our community both willing and reluctant, allow God's grace to work in us in a way that allows us to cast a beam of light upon all those around us. I ask that you pray for all our leaders, both in our churches and in our community, and that you do all you can to make their jobs easier rather than harder. And whenever God is pushing you to step up and lead then take that calling by the horns and run with it. Dream of new ways for God's love and grace to be shared, and then lead the way into the light. Your church is here to support you and to aid you in all that you do...so that the shadows will be chased away and so that the light can shine on forever.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways,

Pastor Michael

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday:

February 10th 7 p.m. at LUMC

Palm / Passion Sunday:

March 20th BUMC 9 a.m./LUMC 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday:

March 24th 7 p.m. at LUMC

Good Friday:

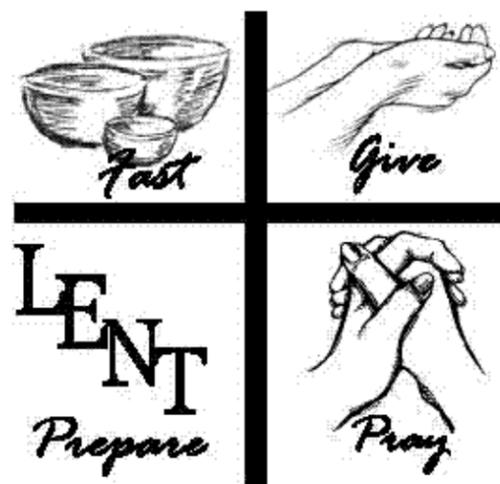
March 25th 7 p.m. at BUMC

Easter Sunday:

March 27th

The Square (Sunrise Service) 7 a.m.

BUMC 9 a.m./LUMC 11 a.m.



LEXINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TREASURER'S REPORT

<i>All Funds Balance as of January 24th</i>		Date:		Offering	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance (All Classes)
General Fund	\$92,55.17	January	3	\$10,580.00	105	25
Early Chapel CD	\$18,321.49		10	\$4,916.00	80	22
RTSB CD #1	\$41,331.34		17	\$2,353.30	92	
RTSB CD #2	\$10,226.20		24	\$2,920.60	114	25
RTSB CD #3	\$5,131.90					
RTSB CD #4	\$10,302.44	1/31 will be in the March newsletter.				
RTSB CD #5	\$8,090.31					
RTSB CD #6	\$5,018.81					

DESIGNATED FUNDS in GENERAL:			
Pledge Fund Acct. Balance	\$67,874.60	Annual Church Budget for 2016	\$186,674.00
Early Chapel Cemetery Fund	\$1,065.97	Offerings thru January 24, 2016	\$22,595.62
Journey Sunday School	\$253.23	2016 District Apportionment - Paid in Full	
Memorial Fund	\$1,665.90	2016 Conference Apportionments - \$10,056	
Methodist Men	\$250.00		
Quintet	\$1,559.34		
Backpack Buddies	\$7,905.85		

Church Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	St. Stephen's Fund \$4,008.05 <small>Money for this fund is given by placing it on the communion rail during communion or by giving a check in the offering plate and putting "St. Stephen's Fund" in the memo.</small>
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OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:
lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com

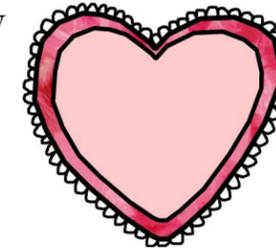
Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

NewsLetter DEADLINE	Newsletter deadline for March edition is February 17th Articles and photos are always needed. Please submit yours to Pastor Michael or Stephanie.
	Pastor Michael Peschke & Stephanie Kellenberger Editors of <i>The Voice</i>

BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Save the Dates:

Children's Valentine's Party
February 12th at 6:30 p.m.



Adult Valentine's Dinner
February 14th

Blue UMC Worship Attendance		
January	3	18
	10	38
	17	32
	24	42

1/31 will be in the March newsletter.

February Birthdays

- 8-Elizabeth Gonzales
- 15-Alan Turner
- 16-Gail Biehle
- 17-Nancy Turner
- 20-Lane Turner



UPCOMING BLUE EVENTS

- Sunday Mornings**
9 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- Wednesday Mornings**
11 a.m. Prayer Group

FEBRUARY

- 1-BVFD
- 2-NWLC 4H
- 3-Combined Comm. Mtg.
- 8-Texas Stars
- 9-UMW Mtg (LUMC)
- 10-Ash Wednesday
- 12-Kid's Valentine's Party
- 14-Adult Valentine's Dinner
- 21-Clopton Benefit (Park Bldg)
- 23-TEEA

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

- Ash Wednesday:**
February 10th 7 p.m. at LUMC
- Palm / Passion Sunday:**
March 20th BUMC 9 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday:**
March 24th 7 p.m. at LUMC
- Good Friday:**
March 25th 7 p.m. at BUMC
- Easter Sunday:**
March 27th BUMC 9 a.m.

Blue UMC St. Stephen's Fund
\$536.54

On Communion Sunday's (the first Sunday of the month), we take a special offering at the rail for the **St. Stephen's Fund**. This money is used to help those in need in our community. With this fund, we help people in emergency situations and those that may need some help with their utilities.



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Every Sunday

Sunday School
9:45-10:45A
(6-12th grade)

February

7	Youth	4p
21	Youth	4p

SAVE THESE SUMMER DATES!

June 13-17 District Camp
(Entering 4th–12th grade)
June 26-July 2 UM ARMY
(High School)
July 21-24 BIG HOUSE
(Middle School)

We will also need adult volunteers for these trips. If you are interested, please let the office know. Thank you!



YOUTH PROGRAMS

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Pancake Dinner

Ash Wednesday, February 10

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Attention Youth and Summer Campers!

We need your help serving and donating to this year's Pancake Dinner. If you are interested, and have not already signed up online, please contact the church office to sign up.

Everyone is invited to come enjoy Pancakes, Sausage & Juice before Ash Wednesday Service (a goodwill offering dinner)

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We will be putting together Valentine Cards again during Sunday School for those in our community who are unable to leave their homes. Please come help us put together these most-needed cards. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class began on Sunday, January 31st. If you are interested in joining the group, there is still time. Please contact Pastor Michael in the office at 773-2728 for more information. Confirmation is for kids 6th grade or older that have not been confirmed.

We can always use volunteers to help with the class. If you are an adult that would like to help, please let the church office know.



Volunteers Needed!

Our Youth programs are in need of volunteers to help continue these missions. We have Sunday School, Sunday night group that needs adults to lead, cook, or just be there to help out. Please contact the church office if you can help!

Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10

Family Life Center Update



- * Our Unlock the Future capital stewardship campaign continues to be a success. So far, we have a commitment of **\$209,767.18.**
- * The Building Committee is working with our contractor, Rhodes Building Systems, on costs.
- * We will schedule a meeting with the West District Committee on Buildings and Locations, hopefully this month.
- * We will then schedule a called Charge Conference to secure the final approval from our members.
- * Construction will then likely begin in 2016.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support in growing God's Kingdom.

2016 LUMC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Administrative Council

Rebecca French (Chair), Mike Organ (Vice Chair), Andrew Woodward, Chuck Moore, Chester Smith, Willis Brewer, Nancy Organ, Robert Ahrendt, Debbie Nuckols, Mary Beth Gibson, Stephanie Kellenberger, John Gibbs, Sarah Hallum, Jan Lynn, Judy Everett, Wyatt Retzlaff

Lay Leadership Committee

Michael Peschke (Chair), Jan Lynn, Chuck Moore, Jennifer Marek, Dana Brewer, Andy Woodward, Terrie Smith

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chester Smith (Chair), Nancy Thomas, Cindy Jackson, Pat Rao, Oscar Hillegeist, Cinda Lewis

Finance Committee

Willis Brewer (Chair), Rebecca, Chuck Moore, Pastor Michael Peschke, Chester smith, Barry Lynn, Andrew Woodward, Nancy Organ

Board of Trustees

Chuck Moore (Chair), Cindy Herklotz, Tate Townsend, John Gibbs, Andy Costley, Elaine Gibbs, Rob Kellenberger, Robert Ahrendt, Rebecca French

Memorials

Sarah Hallum, Jeannine Brewer, Janie Ahrendt, Priscilla Brister, Nancy Organ

Thank you for serving!

Another Successful Enchilada Lunch!



Thank to you everyone who helped make this Enchilada Lunch such a great success! Thanks to those who cooked, served, volunteered and ate! With your help, we netted over \$1,900! All proceeds benefit the New Building Fund.

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” ~Matthew 18:20

METHODIST CHILDREN PROGRAMS

This Spring at M&M's:

”Wipe Out-Beyond Forgiveness is Blessing”

Wipe Out is based on God's Forgiveness. We will hear stories about Bible people who found blessing on the other side of forgiveness. This is a fun and interactive way to keep the kids interested in learning about God's word and His plans for each of them.

Calendar

Spring Break – March 16

Last M&M's for Year – April 27



Children's Church is a special worship experience for children who wish to participate. After the Children's Sermon, the Children's Church leaders lead children into a Sunday School room where they learn a lesson, make a craft, & sing songs. **Adult volunteers are needed** to help lead the children of Sunday's. All the materials you need will be supplied to you—we just need you to lead the children through the lesson. Please let the church office know if you can help.



Sunday School

Sunday School teachers include Jan Alexander, Jan Lynn, Jennifer Marek, & Trudy Doerfler. The children's Sunday school curriculum comes from the series, Deep Blue. Children will hear the Bible story, apply the Bible message and then live out the message in their lives. Each session is divided into three sections. The 1st section is a large group where the children will meet in Room 2. Children will be introduced to a Bible story and Bible verse. Then the children will be divided into two age groups. One group will explore the lesson deeper and do a craft activity and the other age group will have a snack, play games related to the Bible story and practice Bible verses. Then the two groups switch.



Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

July 11-15, 2015



2015 proved to be another successful year for our Angel Tree ministry. Our church served 9 families and 23 children. Six were able to attend our annual Angle Tree Christmas party where food, fun, and crafts made for a joyful party. Many thanks to all the volunteers for contacting families, delivering gifts, bringing children to the party, setting up the crafts and art, food, drinks, decorations, etc. Pastor Michael told the Christmas story and we all enjoyed that. Our ministry team will stay in contact with the children via cards and letters during the year. For those old enough, we will offer scholarships to attend Lakeview with our youth. If you are called to help in this wonderful ministry during the year or at next Christmas, please contact John Gibbs.



... I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did.
Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.
2 Timothy 1:3

Lexington Backpack Buddies Update



God truly has a hand in this program. Our funding continues to come in and support for the program is growing! Our January **Soup & Bread lunch** was at Lexington Faith Temple and it turned out great. So many people from the community came together to help bake bread, make soup, desserts and salads. We had a wonderful turnout plus around **30 teachers** were served lunch at their campuses!

Our monthly “**feed the teachers**” have been successful. Individuals and / or groups in the community cater a lunch for the elementary school teachers on the **3rd Wednesday of the month for \$5**. All proceeds go to Backpack Buddies. So far, we have raised a little over **\$400** so far! If you would like to participate, please let the office know.

Lexington Backpack Buddies is a collaborative church and community partnership that seeks to increase student academic achievement by ensuring that all children have enough to eat over the weekend, when free and reduced breakfasts and lunches are not available. Currently, we feed nearly 70 kids each week during the school year. Our budget for the 2015/16 school year is roughly **\$13,500**. This will provide 70 kids three dinners, two breakfasts, two lunches, and snacks each weekend during the school year. Please “like” our Facebook page: Backpack Buddies Lexington.

As always, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support!



With Gratitude

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and food while I was sick. I love everybody in our church!
~Henrietta

Thank you so much to everyone who made soup, brought in auction items, volunteered and participated in this year's Soup & Bread Lunch. We really appreciate each and everyone of you!
~Sarah and Stephanie

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 2-Sunny Adams
- 4-Leanna Owens
- 6-Tripp Kellenberger
- 6-Stacey Stover
- 7-Rhyder Taizan
- 8-Terry Moore
- 9-Kenn Miller
- 9-Tanner Retzlaff
- 13-Ricky Braly
- 15-Ellie Doerfler
- 16-Garrett Gerdes
- 16-Jennifer Marek
- 23-John Johnson
- 25-Chase Ahrendt
- 25-Connie Ward
- 28-Janie Johnson

A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

New Building Fund

In Memory of ... James “Smutt” Smith

by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer

In Honor of ... The Bauer Family

Lorene Hall & Orlene Patterson

by... Jan Patterson

In Memory of ... James “Smutt” Smith

by... Mike & Laurie Brewer

In Memory of ... Gladys Patschke Jordan

by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer



Includes gifts that were given on or before Sunday, January 24th. To make a memorial place “memorial” in the subject line of your check & place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Backpack Buddies Soup & Bread Lunch



Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning
Sunday School

Journey Class for Adults

Meet in the Church Library with leader, Cinda Lewis

Men's Gathering

Meet in the Fellowship Hall with leader, John Gibbs

Coffee House

10:45 a.m.

LUMC Fellowship Hall enjoy complimentary coffee & pastries

